

## New ride makes a splash at Legoland

Thrill seekers have been flocking to an exciting new water ride at Legoland, built by Dyer & Butler on a steep and challenging site.

Heavy duty foundations and large earthworks support a major new installation at the Legoland theme park in Berkshire. The 'Viking River Splash' ride was built by a team from Dyer & Butler last year and has proved a popular addition to the site's range of family attractions.

Building works were valued at £5.7M, making the Legoland scheme one of the largest single contracts successfully completed by the company.

Ground works began by creating 100 foundation piles on the steep, undeveloped hillside. The company used a continuous flight auger to install each 750mm diameter pile to a depth of 15m. A reinforced earth embankment, extending to a height of 7m and

covering a distance of 200m, was then built at the opposite end of the site.

Over 12,000m<sup>3</sup> of clay was later removed from the hillside using large excavators, to accommodate a 400m long, 4m wide reinforced concrete trough. The trough is designed to be filled with water to carry eight seater 'Viking boats' along the ride.

Hard landscaping followed, along with construction of footpaths and fencing. Dyer & Butler also supervised mechanical and electrical installations on behalf of the client. Contracts manager Mark Foster said: "Our client is one of the largest theme park operators in the world and we hope to secure more work from them in the future."



Above: Visitors to Legoland enjoying the new 'Viking River Splash' ride  
Below: The reinforced concrete trough built by Dyer & Butler



## Welcome to the first edition of Dyer & Butler Insight

Welcome to issue one of Dyer & Butler's new company magazine, 'Insight'.

Inside these pages you will read about the firm's recent and ongoing work across a wide range of disciplines in the construction industry.

Dyer & Butler has built an enviable reputation as a leading civil engineering and building

contractor in the south of England and Wales. The company employs over 350 full time staff, has a turnover in excess of £65M and has secured forward orders in excess of £150M over the next three years.

Operations are divided among four business streams of Building, Airports, Rail and general civil engineering

activities, including highways, water and environmental services. Clients include private and public sector customers and the company has a series of long term framework agreements with major infrastructure operators and local authorities.

Dyer & Butler was founded in 1979 by Bob Dyer and Dave Butler. Company directors have

since built a healthy and continually expanding business on the principles of working in collaboration with clients and investing in staff.

The company is based in Southampton, has a regional presence at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports and has recently opened new offices near Swansea and Exeter.

INSIDE:



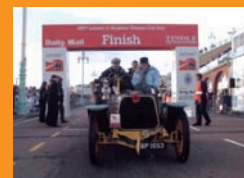
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Airport teams commended for speedy response



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Berkshire railway culverts replaced



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Car fanatic joins Brighton convoy



**Message from the Managing Director Paul Hobbs**

## Success leads to continued growth

Congratulations to all staff and operatives for another good 12 months, during 2007.

The company's pre audited accounts for the year indicate a 30% increase in turnover, to £65M, and this follows similar annual increases in recent years. 2008 has started very well, with £50M of work already secured.

Our rail division saw a 50% increase in turnover last year, which is a tremendous achievement, and the company's general civil engineering output rose by a very impressive 30%.

The airports division continues to prosper, through our framework agreement with BAA, and the buildings division, which is beginning to enjoy great success, has secured a major contract to redevelop a transport interchange on the Isle of Wight.

We welcome two new directors – Tom Schofield in the rail division and Dave Davies the airports division. I am sure both men will help steer the company towards even greater success.

I am pleased with progress being made by our new South

West and south Wales offices to extend our regional presence. Greater coverage throughout southern England should soon follow, as we look to open a South East office and another in London.

Finally, a note of caution. Our safety record is satisfactory, but we need to improve. We are expanding our behavioural safety programme 'Susa' throughout the company, and encourage everyone to work extra hard to ensure they remain safe on site.

## Take off for company training initiatives

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IS HIGH ON THE COMPANY'S AGENDA, FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR ENGINEERS AND OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR OPERATIVES.**

High flying engineers are being encouraged to further their potential at Dyer & Butler by working towards a professional development standard. To make the prospect more appealing, an incentive of £1000 is on offer to employees who successfully become a Chartered or Incorporated engineer with the company's assistance.

Supervising engineer Tom Schofield co-ordinates the company's professional training scheme. He says: "We are offering engineers routes to chartered or incorporated status to raise the

level of competency in the business and to ensure that individuals receive the structured training they need to develop their careers."

A group of nearly 20 engineers is currently working towards professional recognition with the Institution of Civil Engineers. Individuals are expected to complete quarterly reports outlining how their recent experiences meet relevant objectives, before submission of career reports and attendance at professional interview. The first of the company's engineers to put themselves forward for a formal assessment of their abilities is expected to do so in April.

"We have a team of Supervising and Delegate engineers which oversees the group's progress, and I am confident the company will have an increased number of professionally qualified engineers in the future," Schofield added.



The first four construction operatives employed by the company to achieve an NVQ level two in concreting proudly show off their certificates. (From second left) Tony Griffiths, Bill Carter, Sean Egan and Steve Cooze from the company's Heathrow base stand alongside their assessor Paul Bailey of the Central Sussex College (far left) and contracts director Jon Whitehouse (far right)

### Vocational success

Concerted efforts are also being made by Dyer & Butler to upskill its construction operatives. National Vocational Qualifications are being achieved by site based employees involved in a range of disciplines such as bricklaying and concreting (see above).

In addition, the company is enhancing the in-house training on offer to operatives working on the highway, beside the railway and in airport environments. Operatives are receiving training updates for, among other things, small tools use, manual handling and working safely.



**FLYING HIGH:** Dyer & Butler is set to design and build an aircraft hangar for a private client at Biggin Hill airport. Planning permission for the £3M project is being sought, and the Buildings division could begin work this summer.

## Rail job wins annual award

Efforts to complete a complex rail maintenance project in Cornwall in under five days has won Dyer & Butler a prestigious 'Job of the Year' accolade for 2007.

The project at St Keyne involved

removing track and placing a reinforced concrete saddle over a weak culvert. It was named as Network Rail's 'Job of the Month' for minor works for October, before securing the annual award.

# Company boosts its regional presence

Opening of new regional offices in Swansea and South Brent near Exeter have improved the company's geographical coverage and led to the award of significant new contracts.

The Swansea team is set to move into newly built premises this summer, adjacent to its current temporary home to the north of the city in Landore. The company first established a presence in Swansea in April 2006 to carry out general civil engineering works.

Regional manager Adam Ray says his office has secured £3M worth of orders for 2008 including flood and sea defence projects, town centre regeneration

schemes and highway improvements for local authorities and private developers. "We are expanding rapidly and south Wales represents a large market for the company," he said.

Our second new regional office in South Brent opened 18 months ago to deliver both civils and railway projects. Regional manager Greg Adamiw said: "We are located half way between Exeter and Plymouth, ideally placed to serve clients throughout the south west of England. We have already turned over a large amount of work and expect significant growth this year."

Recent contract successes for South Brent include repair of a



Construction of sea defences form a major part of works in the South West

listed stone quay at Ilfracombe harbour and completion of a flood defence project for the Environment Agency. The team is about to replace a road bridge at Axminster and is continuing with rail work at Dawlish and St Austell.

Dyer & Butler operations director Steve Jayne said: "It is very important to have a strong local presence in areas where you hope to win work. Clients appreciate dealing with companies that are close by."

## HEALTH, SAFETY & THE ENVIRONMENT : Efforts reap rewards

**HERE AT DYER & BUTLER, WE TAKE HEALTH AND SAFETY VERY SERIOUSLY AND HOPE THROUGH APPLYING THE RIGHT POLICIES AND PRACTICE TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF ALL EMPLOYEES.**

Congratulations can be accepted by every member of staff and site worker after Dyer & Butler met a demanding safety target last summer. The company is delighted to report that one million man hours passed without a reportable accident in July. But it is also keen to stress that there is no room for complacency.

Our safety, environment and quality manager Phil Ball says that achieving the 'One in a Million' target represents a great achievement. "It currently takes around eight months for us to chalk up one million man hours, so it is no mean feat to work for that length of time without a major incident. But we must continue to pay great attention to safety if we are to achieve the mark again."

The 'One in a Million' initiative was devised by airports operator BAA in 2000 and was initially followed by Dyer & Butler's airports division, before being introduced across the company three years ago.

### CUTTING DOWN ON MINOR INCIDENTS

A good indicator of the company's safety performance is the number of minor incidents that take place, which are not classified as 'reportable' accidents. In this respect, Dyer & Butler's overall safety record can be seen to be improving.

During 2007, there were 23 minor accidents and this compares with 32 the year before. Taking into account increased turnover and employee levels, this is a significant achievement.

### ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD SECURED

Dyer & Butler has achieved a notable environmental management standard in recognition of attempts to

reduce the impact the company has on its surroundings. We were awarded an ISO 14001 certificate last year and the company has since set targets with regard to waste management. New initiatives introduced include a method of storing fuels at company sites, to reduce risk of spillage.

### ROSPA AWARD SUCCESS

Efforts by the company to improve its management of health and safety systems have led to presentation of two Gold Awards by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. One

award recognised the company as a whole and the second was won by the airports division.



Safety health advisor Malcolm Coles (right) receives a RoSPA award

RoSPA awards manager David Rawlins commented: "Dyer & Butler is a fine example to many other companies. We would like to see more organisations to follow its lead."



### AIRPORT EFFORTS RECOGNISED:

Dyer & Butler received the BAA Pavement & Infrastructure Environmental award for 2007 for introducing solar powered welfare units. The company was also highly commended in the Project Team award category for its emergency security response at Gatwick following a terrorist attack on Glasgow airport. Operations director Jon Whitehouse also presented an award for Innovation, sponsored by Dyer & Butler, at the ceremony on 14 December. Pictured is contracts manager John Watt (left) receiving the Environmental award.

# Airport teams commended for speedy response

**THREAT OF VEHICLE BORNE ATTACK AT AIRPORTS ACTIVATED EMERGENCY WORK BY DYER & BUTLER AND RESULTED IN A COMMENDATION FOR OUR RAPID RESPONSE.**

Heightened alert to acts of terrorism has been keeping Dyer & Butler teams busy defending airports from threat of vehicle borne attacks. Installation of permanent and aesthetic defensive measures – steel bollards and concrete planters – was completed at Heathrow and Gatwick last year. Then the threat became a reality at Glasgow, prompting an immediate response from the company.

The attack on Glasgow Airport occurred on Saturday 30 June. Teams from Dyer & Butler received calls the same day requesting help with installation of further

emergency measures at Gatwick, Stansted, Heathrow and Southampton airports.

At Gatwick, labour, plant and equipment were mobilised in two hours. Working with GAL (Gatwick Airport Limited) Engineering, terminal management and the police, work continued from Saturday night through to Monday morning, placing 120 protective 'Jersey' barriers at the airport.

This exhausted GAL's supply of the concrete blocks, so a further 130 barriers were sourced from external suppliers and placed over the next three nights to allow the



*Enhanced security measures have been installed at airports by Dyer & Butler*

airport's north terminal to reopen. In recognition of the effort, Dyer & Butler was highly commended in the 2007 BAA Pavement & Infrastructure Project Team Award in December (see page 3).

Our team at Stansted had recently begun upgrading power infrastructure when the call came for help with emergency protection measures. The response was purchase of 12 lorry loads of concrete barriers which were installed and painted. A high strength Corus crash barrier was also installed to protect Stansted's terminal from vehicle borne attack.

The Stansted team has since completed its power infrastructure upgrade work. Around 400m of new ducting has been laid in 300mm trenches. Further work is continuing at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted through our 10 year, Second Generation Framework Contract with BAA.

Dyer & Butler's operations director Jon Whitehouse said: "I am pleased with the performance of teams at Gatwick, Stansted, Southampton and Heathrow which responded in a professional manner and to the high standards which Dyer & Butler and BAA have come to expect."

## Heathrow work progressing well

Carriageway improvements on the Heathrow Western Perimeter Road have been completed and our team in west London is now refurbishing the Longford Road Link Bridge. This formerly provided emergency access and is being upgraded to provide a dedicated bus route into Terminal Five.

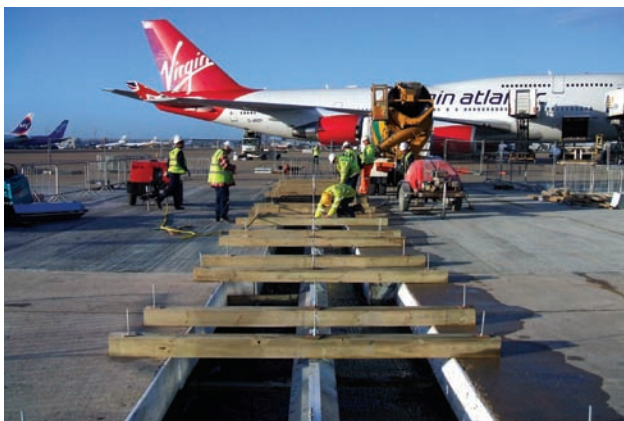
Our team, led by contracts manager Gareth Cobley and agent James Giddy, has upgraded the Perimeter Road's junction with the former emergency access;

widening the road and adding a 60m long bus filter lane and traffic signals. The bridge consists of a concrete slab and asphalt pavement on concrete culvert sections.

Parapets are being upgraded and the existing road surface removed. The concrete slab will then be inspected and repaired if necessary and a new waterproofing system and road surface laid, all in time for the T5 opening in March this year.

**DIRECT UNLOADING** of aviation fuel from road tankers is now possible at Gatwick following the company's completion of a new offloading facility. The work for GASHCO – Gatwick Airport Storage & Hydrant Company – included construction of 800m<sup>2</sup> of Densiphalt pavement, in situ concrete slab, ducting and drainage.

**CLOSE LIAISON** with London City Airport and EDF Energy has helped Dyer & Butler successfully complete a substation building and infrastructure project on time. Ground and steel works, follow on trades for building construction, landscaping, drainage, resurfacing and cable work all had to be coordinated around airport operations and existing services.



## Innovation on show at Gatwick

Gatwick Airport's aircraft stand 31 was rebuilt by a Dyer & Butler site team late last year.

In total, 970m<sup>2</sup> of pavement quality concrete was broken out and replaced during the nine week project, which also made use of an innovative solar powered site welfare cabin. This facility won the

team an Environmental award from BAA (see page 3) and will now be used on future Dyer & Butler projects.

The Stand 31 project also included the recycling of around 340m<sup>3</sup> of concrete as 'type one' aggregate in lean mix sub base and construction of 'hex' slot drainage channel.

# Dawlish sea defences strengthened

**DAMAGED COASTAL DEFENCES IN DEVON ARE BEING REBUILT BY DYER & BUTLER TO PROTECT A NEARBY RAILWAY LINE FROM TIDAL ACTION.**

Breakwater repairs and sea wall refurbishments are being carried out in south west England and site teams are bracing themselves for further emergency works following spring high tide.

The company's ongoing maintenance programme extends for 25km between Exeter and Newton Abbot and includes a stretch of sea wall at Dawlish where trains pass very close to the water. Our contract with Network Rail was signed in April 2006 and could last for four years.



*Repointing a breakwater beside the coast at Dawlish*

"We have repaired three out of seven breakwaters to date and our work is both planned and reactive," said contracts manager Daniel Jane. "Following a major storm, we could be carrying out repairs within two hours."

At 'Shell Cove' breakwater this winter, dislodged granite stones were recovered at low tide, cleaned and repositioned before the wall was repointed by specialist stone masons. Further responsibilities for the company

include maintaining timber groynes which are designed to prevent the movement of sand along the beach and protect the toe of sea defences.

Access to the beach is difficult. Plant and materials are delivered to a series of sites beside the shore by crossing railway tracks during occasional line possessions.

Engineers and operatives from Dyer & Butler also keep a close eye on the condition of structures and report any sudden changes.

Site agent Lee Davey added that use of designated mixing areas to prepare cementitious materials helps to protect the beach, and new environmentally friendly grouts and mortars are being trialed on the defences.

## Comprehensive station upgrade under way at St Austell

Sensitive refurbishment is to take place alongside new construction in Cornwall as the company prepares to restore a listed railway station waiting room and build a bus terminal at St Austell.

Decayed wooden doors and window frames originally specified by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and bearing the Great Western Railway logo are to be replaced by copies sensitive to the original design.

Hard landscaping will be installed outside the station featuring granite with a blue brick edging, and piling is due to start soon on a replacement footbridge across the railway with lift access.

Ground works for the new bus terminal revealed a plethora of buried foundations, which have been removed, and contaminated soil and asbestos which have been dealt with.

Project manager Martin Sanders said demolition of old bus station buildings have opened up a pleasant view of the town, and a cycleway will be routed around the station to allow riders to enjoy the view.

"Visitors to the nearby Eden Project can soon look forward to smarter looking train and bus stations when they arrive at St Austell," he added.



*Works under way at St Austell*



**RAIL CULVERTS REPLACED:** Two collapsed culverts in Berkshire passing beneath railway near Reading were replaced during a 52 hour blockade of lines in September. The works (pictured above) preceded the repair and treatment of two bridges in south Wales which formed part of the same contract on behalf of Network Rail. The £812,000 'Four structures' package includes replacing Midgham Culvert near Newbury and the Quarry Tunnel Bridge in south Wales. The contract is expected to be completed in June.

**DETERIORATION OF STEELWORK** on a road over rail bridge at Tytherington in Somerset has led Dyer & Butler to install a new deck formed of precast concrete beams. A 52 hour possession of the track over a weekend in October allowed the existing deck to be demolished and new structure to be placed. Bridge components were lifted into place by a 300t crane working from the road level and use of integral parapet and edge beams allowed for rapid assembly.

**COMPREHENSIVE REPAIRS** were completed on a steel road bridge crossing a railway at Merthyr Tydfil in south Wales in the new year.

Works included grit blasting and painting, extensive steelwork repairs, removal of asphalt from the deck and installation of a waterproofing membrane to channel water into new gullies.

**THOUSANDS OF** rail maintenance projects are carried out by the company every year as part of two 'structures' framework agreements with Network Rail.

Both the Southern zone and Western territory frameworks turn over around £16M of work every year. The client often asks us to deliver more complicated schemes, including the recent strengthening of rail bridges at Edenbridge and Battersea.

# Green light for A3 completion

## BUS PASSENGERS ARE SET TO ENJOY MORE RELIABLE SERVICES FOLLOWING A MAJOR UPGRADE OF THE A3.

Progress reached a climactic stage on Dyer & Butler's A3 bus priority project at Christmas, with the turning on of 50 traffic lights at a major new junction.

Conversion of a roundabout into a multi lane 'cross roads' – just a part of the overall project – involved complex traffic management, complicated relocation of services and around 3km of traffic light cabling.

"Completion of the junction means that, after five years of upgrading the A3, we are now on the home straight and should complete our bus priority work this year," says site agent Paul Allan.

The £18M contract just north of Portsmouth involves making the A3 from Purbrook to Clanfield as 'bus friendly' as possible. About 8km of road is being improved – where possible – to make room for dedicated bus lanes along with many other measures to ease bus access.

The town of Waterlooville, for instance, has had its centre modified and partially pedestrianised as part of the project. The improvements there have been celebrated with a new town centre clock tower. Four other towns and villages have received beneficial attention.

Dyer & Butler's overall contract has been carried out in five phases, three of which are now complete. The A3's upgrading has been preceded by extensive utilities diversion and drainage



*Dedicated bus lanes on the A3 are designed to ease the journey for passengers*

replacement, with the installation at Purbrook of a substantial attenuation system – or temporary water store – to cope with very heavy rainfalls. The road widening itself has accounted for "vast amounts of kerbing and surfacing", according to Paul Allan.

But it is the recently completed junction, at Horndean, which

caused the most challenges. "Adding to complications like keeping vehicles and pedestrians moving was a BT chamber under the old roundabout which had to be rebuilt and equipped with new access, via a reinforced concrete tunnel."

The lights were switched on during 18 December, three days ahead of programme.

## Gunwharf water leaks solved



*Failed waterproofing is replaced*

Preventing water from ponding within Portsmouth's Gunwharf Quays shopping centre and leaking through to an underground car park beneath has been under way by Dyer & Butler for the last 20 months.

The work, a second phase of which has just begun, has required considerable coordination between ourselves, the site's management team and shop owners to minimise disruption.

"On top of this we've had to suspend operations during holidays," says contracts manager Simon French. "Unsurprisingly,

they don't want us working while the holiday shoppers are about."

Paving in the pedestrian areas is being lifted, the slab underneath inspected, any failed waterproofing replaced and then the areas are being repaved.

In addition, the site's drainage is being uprated to ensure that rainwater is cleared from paved surfaces as quickly as possible.

Several thousand square metres of paving are being relaid, and hundreds of metres of drainage pipes are being installed. The first phase of the project for Land Securities was worth £800,000.

## Dock bridge challenges met

High quality traffic management and hi-tech surfacing have both featured in Dyer & Butler's contract to refurbish Dock Gate 20 Bridge, one of the principal routes into the Port of Southampton.

Work on the dual carriageway structure had to be juggled to maintain continuous access for HGVs and other vehicles. And great care had to be taken with the EME2 asphalt, the high performing surfacing specified to meet the durability needs of the bridge deck.

"Our contract has covered traffic management, removal of the old surfacing and waterproofing, installation of high containment kerb drain,

cleaning of existing drainage, new waterproofing and new surfacing," says contracts manager Simon French. "Plus the white lining."

Traffic on to the bridge was slowed via chicanes and kept to one lane in each direction. Bridge deck under the unused lanes of both carriageways was then refurbished, following which traffic was switched onto these lanes so that the remainder of the deck could be treated.

Design of the new asphalt was complex and laying it required attention to detail. "Our client for the £375,000 contract was Associated British Ports," says Simon.

**A VICTORIAN WATER TREATMENT WORKS** has been refurbished and a chemical dosing facility built by the company at Wimborne in Dorset, on behalf of Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water. The £2.4M contract also involved bringing back into service a 45m deep borehole that had been put out of use. Commissioning works are currently under way.

# Overcoming challenges in Lymington

## LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES AND CONFINED SPACE WORKING FAILED TO DETER DYER & BUTLER FROM COMPLETING A COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT LYMINGTON.

Maintaining pedestrian access beside a large building site was a high priority for a Dyer & Butler team working to construct a mixed use development in the historic Hampshire port of Lymington. The company has built a £2.5M mixed use development behind the town's busy high street and had to ensure that people could walk unhindered during operations to a large car park nearby.

Our team has completed eight retail units, five flats, four maisonettes and a pair of cottages for Angel Yard LLP – a joint venture between Landford Estates and Highclere Estates. Work began

on site in March 2006 and the team, including site agent Alan Baird, quantity surveyors Steve Rowe and Nigel Stephens and assistant Darrell Kennedy all steered the project to its successful completion in September last year.

"The scheme had to be built in two phases to ensure a pedestrian thoroughfare from the main car park, next to the site, through to the high street was maintained at all times," said Building's divisional manager Chris Nicholas. "This presented us with many logistical challenges which were further complicated by 30 party wall agreements with adjoining properties and a requirement to maintain 20 parking spaces in the development."

Protected walkways were provided and moved as site work progressed, and parking was carefully managed to ensure our works did not impede motorists.



Some of the eight retail units completed by our team in Lymington

"Space on site was also very tight and there was not any room for accommodation and welfare

facilities, so we got permission to use a disused pub adjacent to the project," Chris added.

**COMPLEX RENOVATION** of a former B&Q superstore in Bournemouth has been completed on time by a team from the company's Buildings division.

The £1M project involved dividing the store into two new retail units. Dyer & Butler's work included making alterations to most of the building's services and creating new shop entrances and canopies.



The Dyer & Butler team celebrate its five mile walk for charity

Twenty members of staff enlisted their families and donned matching t-shirts to walk five miles and raise nearly £4000 for charity.

The Dyer & Butler team – captained by administration assistant Clare Stacey – joined thousands of participants for the walk around Southampton's Itchen Valley Country Park in September in aid of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The charity presented the

team with a silver award for the amount of money it managed to raise. "We owe a great thank you to all those who sponsored us, especially company director David Butler who pledged £2000 for the cause," said Clare.

Clare designed t-shirts for the group to ensure everybody looked the part. "It was a really good day out and everyone clearly enjoyed themselves particularly the children," she added.

## Helping to build a better future

Senior manager Phil Ball is helping to support communities in Uganda to help them provide themselves better facilities and more opportunities. Phil, our safety, environment & quality manager, first became associated with the African country in 1999 when he led a group to construct new floors in a primary school.

Every year since then, he has led teams that help with building and community work. "We aim to work alongside existing communities and support their vision for improving people's lives through sustainable projects," says Phil.

"Over the years we have got to know many people in the country. We are able to tap into their resources and train people to continue with these projects."

Phil's latest trip was in January 2008. He met with a Ugandan colleague to identify projects in



Phil Ball (front row, centre) in Uganda

need of support during the coming year. "The aim now is to establish our own organisation to allow us to continue to improve our community relations. The projects we work on vary but always follow the same themes of education and medical facilities."

Phil's efforts overseas have been well supported by the company through sponsorship. "Continuing this work in Uganda is very important to me. I have a passion for the place and the people."

## Motorcyclist looking forward to African adventure

Keen biker Nigel Grace has taken up a challenge of a lifetime to travel 2000km by motorcycle across demanding terrain on South Africa's 'Wild coast', all in aid of charity. Office manager Nigel has signed himself up for the Enduro Africa 2008 event later this year and needs to raise at least £5000 by August to be able to take part. "I wanted to try something

exciting and when I heard about this it was just what I was hoping for," says Nigel.

The event starts in Port Elizabeth on the southern tip of Africa. Nigel and the other entrants will be riding locally built Honda CTX200 Bushmaster bikes which are specially designed to handle the varied off road route. Following the ride, the bikes and a five year

maintenance contract will be donated to local charities UNICEF, Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and Sentebale – The Princes' Fund for Lesotho.

Nigel has no experience of off road motorcycling and will be getting as much practice as possible before the autumn. "I am really looking forward to the event, but not to falling off!"



See how Nigel is getting on at <http://nigelsenduro2008.blogspot.com/>

### Car fanatic joins Brighton convoy

Vehicle & plant manager Phil Smith took the driving seat in a 1904 Darracq and joined 500 vehicles in a 60 mile convoy in November. Phil took part in the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run for pre 1905 vehicles.

It took him over seven hours to complete, with stops every couple of miles. "There was a problem

with the fuel filter. It kept blocking up, so we had to stop every few miles to unblock it," said Phil. "It took ages to get to Brighton."

The car belongs to Phil's father and travels at a top speed of 35mph. "I have always had a keen interest in classic and veteran cars and have taken part in this run for the last 12 years."

### Dyer-bollacles meet a watery end

Team 'Dyer-bollacles' had an unexpected dip in Bewl Water in Kent when the team rolled its boat in the first heat of the NSPCC Dragon Boat Races in September.

After ending up in the water, team members were unable to claw back time in the other heats and did not make the final. Plenty of staff and their families took part, led by operations director Jon Whitehouse. The company's efforts

raised over £600. "We took part to support the BAA Pavement & Infrastructure Team Charity Committee's target of raising £20,000 for good causes," said Jon.



Chris Nicholas (second from right) and team

### Keen cyclist completes 500 mile challenge

Building's divisional manager Chris Nicholas has taken part in a grueling 500 mile cycle relay across France. He was joined by two other cyclists in September in the three day 'Burgundy Challenge' to raise

money for Wessex Heartbeat.

"I was lured into the challenge in the hope of a few days of visiting vineyards with a bit of casual cycling in between. The reality was very different!" he says.

The third day of cycling was the toughest with a 2,700m climb before a long downhill to the finish. "I would like to thank all those who sponsored me helping me to raise £750 for the charity."

### A warm welcome to new staff

Staff numbers have increased significantly since last summer, with over 30 new people joining the company.

Experienced construction professional James Lynock has been appointed as a contracts manager in the Buildings division and is joined by two contract administrators Emma Farrell and Hannah Littlejohns. James joined

in September and is working on the Ryde Interchange project.

David Bailey has become a new head of business development, and Rachel Perkins has taken up the role of human relations manager. Justin Crook became safety, health & environmental advisor and Annabella Crawford and Abigail Smith both joined the accounts department.

Site operations have had a boost with new staff including project manager Martin Sanders, senior site agents Tony Barnes and Jeremy Ilott, and site agents Simon Cooney, David Sanders and Alex Gallie.

The team of quantity surveyors has also grown with quantity surveyor Jeremy Thomas, assistant quantity surveyor Ashley Smith, assistant to quantity surveyors Kevin Nanson and trainee quantity surveyor Aeysha Raja.

New members of staff also include planner Camilla Pearce, design coordinator Vaheesan Maheswaran, sub agents Alan Babbage and Samuel Best, graduate engineer Darren Lam, plant manager's assistant Warren Rowe, apprentice plant fitter Daniel Rudman, cost clerk Sue Kill, cost clerk/administrator Sarah Short, administration assistant Ashley Irving and office junior/cost clerk Sally Keywood.