

CESW Newsletter #3 – Dec 05

Alan Mossman writes:

NB: All email addresses have been broken to prevent spamming

Happy Christmas

In this issue

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- **Picking up good vibrations** – report from groovy TG5-Health and Safety
- **Don't Walk by! *What did you think – and what did I do?*** Safety case
- **Construction response to Regional Economic Strategy** – copies available
- **Women in Construction** – CPD and networking for women in construction in SW
- **Project Kaizen** – Lean and continual improvement in a project environment
- **<http://www.positivecoach.org>** - coaching resource for use on and off the job

You can read back issues at <http://groups.google.com/group/CESW-Newsletter> and download pdfs on the Lean Construction Institute site <http://www.leanconstruction.org> and follow the link bottom left.

New guide for users of the Technology and Construction Court

Her Honour Judge Frances Kirkham, designated TCC judge in Birmingham writes:

In October, the Technology & Construction Court (TCC) launched a new Guide for users of the court. The Guide has been prepared following extensive consultation with users across the country and is currently considered to represent best practice within the TCC.

TCC judges appreciate that parties will generally want to settle any differences amicably, and indeed are very supportive of this. They offer particular help to parties engaging in the various forms of dispute resolution commonly found in the construction and engineering industries – arbitration, adjudication, mediation and early neutral evaluation. The Guide describes how such support will normally be given.

Anyone intending to use the TCC will find it helpful to read the Guide. It can be found on the TCC section of the Court Service website: www.courts-service.gov.uk/publications/guidance/tcc/index.htm

HH Judge Kirkham and HH Judge Rupert Jackson, the judge in charge of the TCC nationally, have agreed to introduce the guide in Bristol and Plymouth. If your company would like to sponsor these meetings or if you want to know as soon as we have agreed dates please <mailto:alan.mossman@cesw.org.uk?subject=TCCguide>

Picking Up Good Vibrations

Tom Harper and Richard Thorne jointly chair Working Well Together. WWT is Task Group 5 of Constructing Excellence South West. Here is Tom's report on their work:

When Brian Wilson and Mike Love produced the Beach Boys song *Good Vibrations* way back in 1966 (am I showing my age?) the song required 17 recording sessions over a period of six months . They were committed to doing something new. Brian Wilson noted the influence of maverick 'Wall of Sound' producer, Phil Spector on the production of *Good Vibrations* "When I wrote it I imagined the grand Spector-like production while on an LSD trip."

I can assure you that we, the **Working Well Together** Health and Safety Campaign team in the South West, are not on LSD but we are committed to doing something new, replacing bad vibrations, for example hand arm vibration, with a mass of good vibrations. We are aiming to achieve our own wall of safety initiatives and, perhaps, save the odd life or avoid a maiming here and there.

We are very encouraged by recent developments. There is currently a regional harmonising of Sustainability and Health and Safety initiatives to produce the first ever **Safe and Sustainable Awareness Days** (known as SSADS) attracting small builders and small design practices county by county around the region. Planning is well underway for a roll out in 2006. Here is a recognition that avoiding asbestos contamination accords with using natural paints to produce healthy buildings.

This builds on the SHADS (Safety Health and Awareness days) – we’ve run 12 across the South West in the last 3 years – and the SHAC (Safety Health and Awareness Cabin) used to train small builders in Plymouth on their way to work.

There are also some good vibrations with the University of the West of England. Here we have held the first ever CITB IOSH approved course for Construction Designers. A course developed here in the South West. Certificates were handed out by our local RIBA man with the red trousers. Over the last twelve months or so, more than 20 separate courses have been delivered on behalf of both public and private sectors. The feedback from delegates and trainers has been very encouraging resulting in the course content undergoing further development to ensure ease of access and flexibility thus meeting the widely differing needs of design organisations.

We have since carried out seminars for undergraduate Architects and are currently working with a team of locally based designers and contractors, the university, and the BBC for a grant application for 3D visualisation of Design Health and Safety.

We hope that you will be able to ‘dig’ the wall of safety sounds wherever you sit in our industry and that you will feel able to come jam with this campaign to make the wall even bigger. Like John Peel, we are always looking for original bands with new and unique sounds. Why not get a group together. You can join the campaign directly by phoning the **Helpline: 0845 27 27 500**. There is a mine of very helpful information for designers and contractors on the HSE website www.hse.gov.uk if you search for the construction industry.

If you would like further information on any of the above initiatives or better still, wish to join with us, Richard (my Co-Chair) and I are more than happy to assist, or listen!. harpert@pearce.co.uk richard.thorne@fabermaunsell.com

Don't Walk by! What did you think and what did I do?

In issue #2 I asked what I should have done in this situation that I observed in the Yorkshire Dales last month – so, don't worry, it almost certainly wasn't one of your people!



I received 1 response from Rodger Evans. Roger writes:

Alan, Thank you for highlighting the sort of dilemma that must face many across the industry. Far be it from me to say what you should have done – although I'm most interested to know what you did.

What might I have done? – Clearly this is bad practice although given the height you suggest maybe not an imminent threat to life, although a risk of serious injury. I suspect I might have asked my friends if they minded whilst I took a short diversion and go back to the sight to find someone in charge at the gate. No need to go onto the site to make the point so no need for ppe. So –

1. *Explain in clear terms the breaches noted and seek an assurance that action will be taken.*
2. *take down details of the site and the company and write to the MD enclosing copies of the photos so that action can be taken, and*
3. *If you felt it was not being taken seriously contact the local office of the HSE.*

And what did I do? I humm'd and haa'd. I talked about it with my walking companions, I took the photograph but in the end I walked on by. And the consequence was that I was ridden with doubt on and off for the rest of the weekend.

I think Rodger is right. What do you think?

Construction response to the Regional Economic Strategy

The Construction response to the RES was submitted last Friday. If you would like an electronic copy please mailto:helen@cesw.org.uk?subject=RES_please

Women in Construction

The Constructive Women Dining Club is a network of women working in the construction industry who get together for a mix of technical interest and socialising - with no need to produce a report or write minutes! If you would like to be involved in future Constructive Women events please email Sandi Rhys-Jones mailto:sandi@rhysjones.com?subject=Constructive_Women

There is an active **Association of Women in Property** Group in the Region. <http://www.wipnet.org>

For more information about the regional group contact the chair Rebecca Tregarthen at Kier Western 0117 961 8000 mailto:rebecca.tregarthen@kier.co.uk?subject=Women_in_Property

Project Kaizen

There was a fascinating project playing out on the web last week. Project Kaizen brought together 7 experts on the application of Kaizen and continual improvement in a project environment. The seven come from a variety of backgrounds including construction. You can access the whole conversation via <http://www.reformingprojectmanagement.com/category/project-kaizen/>

The conversation is based around a number of themes:

Monday: The Case for Project kaizen

We'll answer why do kaizens when you are doing a one-of-a-kind project or when the project team members won't be working together on a regular basis.

Tuesday: Workgroup kaizen

Our attention will be on making improvements for sub-team members performing the same type of work.

Wednesday: Workstream kaizen

We'll look at making improvements across a subset of a value stream. This often crosses organizational boundaries.

Thursday: Quick 'n Easy kaizen

These are improvements that affect the ease of one person doing a job and within ones authority to make a change.

Friday: kaizen Blitz

These improvements are focused on the whole project. A blitz takes time and preparation. It is intended to produce a big result.

For an explanation of what it is all about see

<http://www.reformingprojectmanagement.com/2005/12/04/565/>

What is Kaizen? Kathleen Fasanella wrote on 1 December 2005 “*While Kaizen literally means change (kai) and good (zen), Kaizen refers to continuous incremental change as opposed to radical innovation.*” read more at http://www.fashion-incubator.com/mt/archives/what_is_kaizen.html or http://www.leanqad.com/education/what_kaizen.html

<http://www.positivecoach.org>

We are all coaches. I imagine that some of you may be involved in coaching young people in sports teams and many more of you will know people who do. This site is for you. And its for anyone in management.

This Stanford University site was recommended to me by Marc Herrero, joint MD of Herrero Construction, during a round table discussion at the Lean Construction Congress in September. He was recommended to the site because he coaches a little league team. He uses the coaching skills he’s learned working with kids on the sports field to help his staff improve performance at work. There’s an on-line coaching course accessible from the site. Do you know of an British equivalent?

If this has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive future issues please sign up at <http://groups.google.com/group/CESW-Newsletter>

Finally – please tell me what you think of the newsletter, what you want to see and what you are proud of doing to improve the overall construction process – or even just the bit you are responsible for.

Thanks for reading

With best wishes

Alan

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