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Letters



Dear Mark Darwin,

Feb 4th 2016

Just received through the letter box, the attached Gem! Darlington has a vast number of industrialist persons who appear to have free range on assisting the public to carry out second storey roof maintenance. Small driveway costs are about £20 a square metre and you may note our man on the roof charges from £650.

Two points here - Never pressure wash tiles, and secondly these people request the use of the home owners electricity supply and water (We are on the meter) for the pressure washer. They may even request free use of the phone when they fall off the roof!

Please omit my name and address on this letter as I wish to visit Vertical Days at Haydock this year and these fellows play rough.

Yours Sincerely

Name withheld as requested - not that we think he is at risk

Clearly there has been an explosion in recent years of companies offering to wash your roof, the majority of them seem to have little idea about safe work at height, it is surprising that we do not hear of more falls?

Dear Sir,

January is when we look back over the year that's just ended, weighing up our achievements and asking ourselves what we could have done better. But at the same time, we keep our eyes fixed firmly on the future.

In terms of organisation, production and sales, 2015 was a particularly challenging year for us. Firstly, several people who played an important role in our company's history left us to take different directions. We were able however to turn this to our advantage by using it as a stimulus to carefully analyse our corporate strengths and weaknesses, and to find new resources and channel our energies with greater effectiveness. So all considered it was a very positive year, which in terms of production saw the launch of the new B200PX, and in commercial terms the confirmation of GSR's capacity to build proactive long-term business relations and partnerships.

The B200PX made its world debut at the Platformers' Days event in Hohenroda, where it was an immediate success. Greater compactness and greater power, vertical stabilisers, a basket capacity of 300kg in all work positions. 2016 will be a very busy year for GSR. In addition to finishing our internal reorganisation, we are already booked for two major trade shows, Bauma and Vertical Days, events we want to arrive at in tip-top condition. At the same time, we'll certainly be dedicating great attention to our telescopic products, and we'll also be completing our EURO 6 project. I'm confident that in 2016 we'll be able to put all the positive energies we were able to successfully generate last year into focus in the best possible way.

Piero Palmieri,
Product manager
GSR, Rimini

Dear Sir

When my Grandfather Elio Largura bought this American 5299 crane in 1971 he told his boys "this crane is big and strong enough to take the company anywhere". The rig had sat dormant for the last 25 years in our Gary, Indiana yard with every year the discussion coming up of why haven't we sold it or scrapped it? Well after a touch up and some love it is back to its past glory and now will sit proudly in front of our new office in Northwest Indiana.



Nick Largura

Superior
Construction
Indiana

The American 5299 was in production for many years from the 1960s to late 1970s. The 50 ton crane could be rigged with up to 150ft (46m) of main boom and if the heavier boom was specified you could add up to 40ft of jib - it had up to 50ft of jib - all on this little crane. There are still plenty of them at work and in the not too distant past one dating from 1966 fetched \$40,000 at auction! How's that for a return.

Dear Leigh,

I'm contacting you with regard to the Ainscough pay dispute because there is a lot of angst and uncertainty within the workforce - people are scared and are not able to speak their minds out of fear, and what isn't helping is that on your website one person, who is basically a troll, is being very abusive and stirring up an already inflamed situation. People have lost their jobs in the run up to Christmas and he has been very abusive and generalising with his comments. This is not helping the situation. He is an outsider to the company and doesn't know what is really happening within.

In regards to my views on the strike action, I am totally against it, like you said Leigh, only competitors benefit. Yes, I work for their competitors, but I am also a realist. The industry is still fragile from the recession no matter what anyone seems to think. Ainscough took either a very brave, or very foolhardy decision to try to expand during this time, without forethought as to what would happen once other companies began to recover and gain confidence.

You now have the likes of Hewden trying to get back into the heavy crane sector, not massively, but they are also haemorrhaging contracts to smaller crane companies.

I'm now with a company that I would not have thought I would have joined, but it has made a massive investment in regards to safety standards, and has a solid forward thinking plan in regards to corporate development which will see them emerging as a force within the industry in the near future. (last paragraph edited to protect the writer's identity)

I would be grateful if you did not make reference to me publicly.

Many thanks.

Hello

I am reading the letter from the man in Glasgow who wrote a letter about talking to people doing crazy things at height (Cranes & Access December/Jan) and saying that they get aggressive. I have found exactly the same here in Belgium, I also agree with him that most types you see like this are making possibilities for Death Wish pictures, are people working for the local communes/towns on street work or public buildings. And if you stop to tell them what they are doing wrong that it might end up badly, you take a big risk they easily get angry with you.

So I never stop and speak to anyone who is a lot bigger than me, unless he is up out of reach and I then make sure that I keep the car close by ready for an escape. I did almost have a fight with one of these people and have learnt not to take a risk like this again.

The magazine is great, and maybe you can send me one that is printed? I like the online but when possible would like to have a paper one.

W. Verstraete

Dendermonde

Anthony Michael (Tony) Green 1933 - 2016

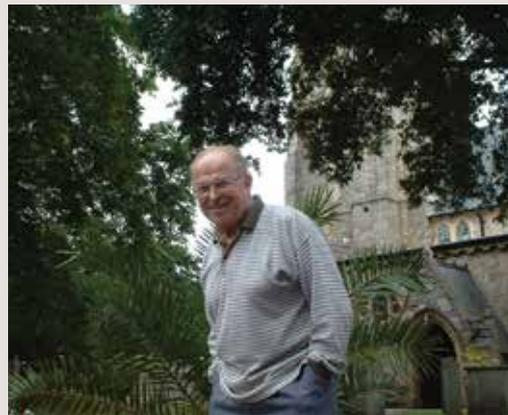
Born in London, raised in Northern Ireland and Birmingham, and educated at King Edwards School in Birmingham, Tony Green always maintained that his spiritual home was South Wales where in the late 1950's he first became involved in what turned out to be a lifelong connection with the Lighthouse Club.

In his youth, he played rugby, cricket and tennis with some distinction, was a good golfer and also a driving force in the King Edwards Old Boys Association and hosted many 'O B' reunions with fellow classmates with whom he maintained contact over 60 years

His career in cranes and plant spanned some 50 odd years - with companies such as Roads & Runways, Rush & Tompkins and then Richards & Wallington soon to become British Crane Hire, which brought him eventually to Somerset. In 1977 he started his own crane hire company which he ran until selling it in 1990, to continue with Mendip Mini Excavators and latterly, Taunton Lifting Services - which is still in operation and will continue under family control.

Tony never did anything by half measures - he was truly an 'all or nothing' chap. A treasured husband, father and grandfather. A charismatic character who will not be forgotten and very much missed.

During Tony's time in Wales he started to get involved



with the Lighthouse Club and when he moved to Somerset he helped in setting up a branch there which eventually became known as the Western Branch. He became treasurer of the branch right up to when he had a stroke in November 2014 which hit him very hard. He became a National council member for the Club and when other branches were struggling Tony was the first to volunteer to go and help out to re-establish the branch. He took on the roll keeping all the branches in the South and Wales up to date with General Council information. He also made a point in attending their functions always there to give support Tony will be sadly missed by all of us within The Lighthouse Club

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