

# cranes & access

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July 2015  
Vol.17 issue 5

**Annual UK/  
Ireland  
dealer guide**

**Telehandlers**

**Pick & carry  
cranes**

**Access for industry**

...Holland Lift 33m narrow electric scissor...New 250 tonne Liebherr AT...Claas swops telehandler supplier...



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## On the cover:

One of 15 animatronic dinosaurs being installed at the UK's Twycross Zoo using telehandlers from Mainline Tool and Plant Hire. The dinosaurs ranging from one to six metres tall have travelled from Texas.



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Holland Lift 33m narrow electric scissor, Palfinger enters US Wind market, New Liebherr cranes, Chinese JV for Sarens, Loxam to acquire Hertz France and Spain? New Dinolift SP boom, Riwal acquires ALS Safety, JCB telehandlers for Boels, Bravi develops Peri attachment, Ashtead passes £2 billion, Tower crane elevators from Potain, New loader crane from Palfinger, UK construction fatalities drop 20%, Big Liebherr crawlers for Bay, Claas moves to Liebherr for telehandlers, New Raptor record?.



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## In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access - scheduled for mid-September - we have the C&A annual guide to the Top 30 rental companies, Spider cranes, Parts and service alternatives and 3.5 tonne van & truck mounts. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make, or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

I always take life with a pinch of salt. . . plus a slice of lemon and a shot of tequila.

anon

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## Gizza job?

As the average age of skilled workers in construction related trades going up and up, many will remember Alan Bleasdale's 1980s play and UK TV spin-off series 'Boys from the Black Stuff' which followed a gang of five unemployed men (all tarmac layers

- hence Black Stuff) and in particular the key character Yozzer Hughes with his unforgettable catchphrases "Gizza job!" and "I can do that!"

Skirting around the side-swipe the programme was aiming at the Thatcher era, it followed the sad stories of people desperately looking for work in the Liverpool area. Unfortunately many still hold this old-fashioned view of construction as a down at heel, second rate industry, with workers there only because they can't get work anywhere else.

Harsh? Perhaps but having been in the industry for almost 40 years - and working in Liverpool during the late 1970s and early 80s - there was more than an element of truth in the perception. Why else would the job market be so tough at the moment? Yes tough for employers - unable to find skilled workers to fill vacancies - rather than Yozzer Hughes' problem of not enough jobs.

This dearth of skilled people has been growing steadily for 25 years or more, and is getting worse because with each recession, many leave the industry for steadier, less cyclical sectors - computing, public service, office work etc... anything but working on job sites, 'getting your hands dirty'. The generation having children in the 1960s, 70s and 80s also steered their children away from any construction related industries. Even our top 30 rental company question "Would you recommend the crane business to your children?" saw only 33 percent saying yes in 2012! But like anything, without change, nothing happens. Fortunately there are an increasing number of people making an effort. Those who visited Vertikal Days this year, may have seen the young school children touring the various stands and being shown how exciting and interesting the industry really is.

We desperately need a huge influx of new blood and the only way to do it is for all companies - both large and small - to encourage youngsters and others - to join as trainees or apprentices. Over the years, too many companies have not bothered to train new people, choosing instead to pay over the odds and poach those trained by others. Well unfortunately now there are so few skilled people that even the poachers are struggling to find anyone.

This diverse industry has so many positive aspects including excellent job satisfaction, good prospects and good pay. Companies have to take responsibility and understand that the solution is in their own hands - through employing and training the people it needs. Additionally we all need to work at changing perceptions and encourage people to line up for jobs in our industry.

The future is in our hands.

Mark Darwin

Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating if we may publish them or not: editor@vertikal.net

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