



# switched on

The newsletter of Guardian ecl

## Welcome

Welcome to the 2009 Summer issue of **Switched On**, Guardian ecl's regular newsletter keeping you informed about the services we offer and projects we are involved with.

With Summer upon us already, I don't know where the time goes, but to date, Guardian ecl as a whole have been extremely fortunate with our work book, and this is due to a combination of having a very diverse client base, along with a very good and dedicated work force, pulling together as a team at all times to achieve projects on time and within budget, and to a high standard.

With many companies throughout our sectors and beyond, struggling in the current times of a recession to gain business and make profits, it is sometimes hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel, however, at Guardian ecl we remain fairly positive despite margins being squeezed but equally cautious.

It is very pleasing to see over the past few months that new relationships and clients have been gained, with American Bank Wells Fargo, Islington Council, and the P Body Trust just to name a few, with some projects listed within this news letter.

I would also like to take this opportunity of congratulating Will Watson on his promotion into the ever expanding Building Services team. Will has been with Guardian ecl for many years, managing projects as a site based manager and has now taken the role of Construction Manager.

Don't forget this newsletter is designed to help you understand the full range of Guardian ecl's products and services, our future plans and to keep you updated with new ideas and concepts within the industry.

If there are any particular subjects you would like to be covered in future editions, please contact us and we will do our best to include them.

Email me at [tony.crawley@guardianecl.co.uk](mailto:tony.crawley@guardianecl.co.uk).

**Tony Crawley**  
Chairman



## wells fargo

Guardian ecl Building Services team, have recently secured a refurbishment project in excess of £220k with American Banking giant Wells Fargo. The project, situated in the West End of London in Grosvenor street, began in mid June and will take approximately 7 – 8 weeks to complete. The building itself is an 18th century listed building, and has many services undergoing an overhaul as part of the refurbishment project. The current tenants of this fine building are European Credit Management, a part of the Wells Fargo organisation.

Will Watson is the Guardian ecl Project Manager overseeing the project, which is being carried out on night and week-end shifts. This allows the staff and bank to operate under normal working hours during the week, with the minimum of disruption.

Will has himself been sitting with the client's representatives over the past weeks,



agreeing programme, specs and cost certainty for the project. He has also been assisting the client with regards to Health & Safety, with the added assistance of Chris Ottaway, who is acting as project planning supervisor.

## green test drive

In line with its environmental credentials, Guardian ecl is currently test driving one of the new breed of environmentally responsible vehicles, the Honda Civic Hybrid.

The Civic Hybrid differs from standard petrol cars in that it utilises an electric motor when the car is cruising. The 1.4 litre i-DSY petrol takes the strain when the car is accelerating, but switches to the electric motor when required. This automatic 'switching' is effortless and seamless, and allows a significant fuel saving: the battery even re-charges itself when you slow down!

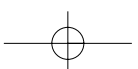
None of the other features normally found in an equivalent saloon are

compromised, and the high specification makes the

vehicle a real alternative to petrol only powered vehicles. With a combined MPG of 61.4 and CO2 emissions of 109g/lm, the vehicle certainly has green credentials and looks set to perform well in today's energy-conscious environment.

Guardian ecl are looking to add a hybrid vehicle to the company fleet in the not too distant future.

If you want more details about the Honda civic hybrid go to <http://www.honda.co.uk/cars/civichybrid/>



## staff spotlight

### Geoff Reeves



#### How did you start in the industry?

I started work as an apprentice with a small company in Finchley doing commercial, domestic and light industrial work. I then worked for myself for 15 years working both direct with customers, and for major electrical contractors. During this time I acquired a huge range of different skills needed to cope with so many different projects.

#### What has been your biggest challenge to date?

In 1980 I built my own house which I completed in just over 10 months.

#### How long have you worked for Guardian ecl?

I started working for Guardian ecl in 2000. I started as an approved electrician and went on to become foreman. In that time I have worked on a wide variety of interesting and often demanding projects.

#### What would you have done if you had not joined the electrical industry?

I have always loved travel and seeing interesting places around the world, and perhaps joining the travel or leisure industry might have achieved this. However, you know what they say, the grass is always greener on the other side, and looking back I have no regrets on the route I chose.

#### What do you do in your spare time?

I like to spend time with my partner Maureen. Between us we have seven grandchildren which is exhausting but keeps us young at heart.

## bluewater refurbishment

The John Lewis store at Bluewater, now celebrating its 10th anniversary, is undergoing a major upgrade and refit. Guardian ecl has been chosen as the contractor for the electrical data and fire alarm works, working with principle contractor Wates. The bulk of the work is being implemented on the 72,000 square foot basement level with additional work on the upper levels.



After completing enabling works at the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009, the main £2.4 million project began in March. The basement sales area, including a new food hall, is scheduled for completion and opening in early August 2009. The upper floors are scheduled to finish in September 2009.



Guardian project engineer, David Hogan is heading the Guardian project. He is in charge of 3 full time office staff, 2 site foreman, 2 charge hands and site operatives, with the shifts covering both day and night.

We asked David to give us the progress of work so far. "We have completed phase 2 of the enabling work in the basement warehouse areas, he said, and we are now approximately 50% installed within the basement selling area and food hall. The upper floors on ground, 1st and 2nd floors have been successfully completed, and we have handed phase 10 over, (there are 45 phases in total) including the new Events room on the 2nd floor and new beauty rooms on the 1st floor."



David said they were now entering the most demanding period of the construction phase, with 8 phases/workfaces on the upper floors as well as the major construction work within the basement, all progressing simultaneously.



# three projects for waitrose

Over the last few months, Waitrose has made a number of acquisitions of Woolworth and Somerfield Stores. Guardian ecl has been involved in many of the store conversions handling all the electrical services, data cabling, CCTV, fire and intruder alarms.

Below are brief details of work carried out on three such stores. Upminster, Haslemere and Islington.

## Islington

Previously trading as a Woolworths, Guardian ecl stripped out all the existing electrical services prior to work commencing, installing temporary electrics for the builders, RG Group. The remit was for the full electrical package which included installing 2 No 150kva generators which will run in tandem until the EDF upgrade is available. The generators had to be craned through the roof into the building (see photo). A new mains panel was fitted to the first floor along with fire and intruder alarms, refrigeration, new comms room and Epos Data System including 2 Nos UPS's and Cat 6 telephones plus front of house lighting installed to Waitrose MK V specification. The tight schedule involved working 7 days a week, but the whole job ran smoothly and was opened on Thursday 2nd April on schedule.



## Upminster

This store, previously trading as Somerfield, was the third acquisition store Guardian ecl has worked at for Waitrose in the first half of 2009. As with the other stores, the contract was for the whole electrical package including data cabling, CCTV, fire and intruder alarms. With a schedule of only 2 weeks, this short project required day and night 24/7 working, but Guardian ecl also had to work within restrictions due to noise, which meant limiting the working time during the night and at weekends. As with the other projects it was completed to a very high standard and on time due to the dedication of staff.

## Haslemere

The store was previously trading as Somerfield prior to its acquisition. As with Islington, Guardian ecl was responsible for the whole electrical package including data cabling, CCTV, fire and intruder alarms plus full design. The design remit was taken from a scope issued via the clients electrical consultant Synergy. The project lasted for three weeks, installing a new mains panel on the 1st floor which incorporated a generator change over and also switches to run the store, plus alarms, phone systems etc. We had to limit the work during the day and at weekends due to noise restrictions, but the whole project ran very well and opened on schedule on Thursday 7th May.



## News from around the group

Norm Pattison will manage a new project for Wellcome Trust. Work will start in August 2009 installing a new server and cafe area.



Work will commence in August 2009 for the refurbishment of student apartments for the University of London. The 120K project will be managed by Will Watson.



Terry Baker will be managing a project to install lighting for Islington Refuge centre and recycling depot. Work is due to start in June.



Justin Skinner is currently managing a roll out project across 105 Waitrose branches upgrading their customer quick check system. This enables the customer to pay on account using a hand held scanner. The roll out began in June and runs to mid October.



## Grand National NSPCC Charity Event raises £1,200



On Thurs 2nd April 2009 the Northern Office hosted a race day on the first day of the prestigious Grand National Meeting, held at Aintree Race Course near Liverpool. The event, arranged by Mike Jones of the Guardian ecl Northern Office, was in aid of the NSPCC.

On the morning of the event, guests met at the Ramada Hotel in Southport, and after enjoying breakfast at the Hotel were transported by coach to the race course. The weather was kind to us, although the success of the racing tipsters was mixed!!! After the racing, there was dinner and a prize giving ceremony back at the hotel.

The event was enjoyed by all who attended, and we would like to thank all of our guests for their kind support. We raised a grand total of £1200, which has been donated to the NSPCC.



# Ringing the changes

Guardian ecl are proud to announce that in a combined tender with Wates Retail, we have been awarded the contract for the new heating and ventilation project at the HSBC Call Centre, Edinburgh.

The large HSBC Call Centre has an occupancy of approximately 500 people, and the work required, is to replace the

existing fan coil units a new VRF system, and installation of fresh air movement fans.

The new cooling system will require a new compound to house the external condenser unit. This compound will have a new 400 amp 3 phase supply and the full system will be controlled with a new BMS network.

Due to the fire alarm panels being obsolete and the building change works requiring additional fire detection, the fire panels and the detection devices are to be upgraded.

New feature lighting will be installed throughout the building and this lighting will be connected to the building's existing BMS lighting controls.



**"balcony flats for lazy dog owners!"**

## golf day Charity golf day raises £5,650

On Friday the 19th June, Guardian ecl held its annual Golf day at the Marriott Forest Of Arden Hotel and country club in Meriden.

A very successful day was had by all who attended, and a magnificent £5,650 was raised on the day.

All money collected goes to Guardian ecl's nominated charity Little Havens Children's

Hospice, which provides respite breaks and end of life care for youngsters with serious conditions, who are not expected to reach adulthood.

We have supported Little Havens Childrens Hospice for some years now, and if you or your company would like more information, or could help in fund raising in any way, go to : [www.littlehavens.org.uk](http://www.littlehavens.org.uk)





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