

Flooring Focus

The Newsletter of the John Lord Group

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johnlord 
SPECIALIST FLOORING

Welcome to the fifth edition of Flooring Focus.

There is plenty to talk about since last summer's newsletter – not only the recent developments and projects here at John Lord, but changes that have taken place within our industry and the industries with whom we work.



One thing we all have in common at this time is potential threats associated with the impending economic downturn. This hot topic that is fast becoming reality is not something that any business will be able to ignore, as it will no doubt affect us all in some way. However through taking a levelheaded, even optimistic approach, new opportunities can be seized, creative marketing strategies implemented and above all, loyal customers looked after.

More positive recent trends in our industry have included the increasing diversity of resin systems and their applications. Floors that offer both performance and design are now being sought, and we, as manufacturers and installers know that this balance can be easily achieved without compromise due to the versatility of the product. Resin floors can be custom-designed to suit specific environments and will provide inspiring results if the correct specification is chosen. Because of this, we have seen the application of resins now spreading to non-industrial sectors such as retail, leisure and education. Even some of our recent industrial projects have involved imaginative bespoke

flooring and drainage designs to create bright, functional and motivational working environments.

Although the success of such projects depends on the correct design and specification, they ultimately rely on the quality of the installation. Even with the most skilled and experienced flooring operatives, it can sometimes be a challenge to ensure that our high standards are consistently met. To combat this, we have devised training programmes which aim to develop skills and knowledge, and standardise ways of working to 'best practise' methods. Training has very much become the buzzword in the flooring industry this year, with the creation of the first formal qualification in resin flooring installation, an NVQ in In-Situ Resin Flooring. Such qualifications now provide a platform for clients and main contractors to be assured of the competency of operatives in their specialised skills and in health and safety practices.

We thank you all for your business over the last 12 months, and look forward to another successful year ahead!

Stephen Lord
Managing Director

Hot off the Press: Protective Floors for Printing Facility



Epigard S.Q.

We were pleased to be a part of the development of imageData Group's new facility in Howden, Yorkshire earlier this year. The state-of-the-art site of 67,000 sq.ft, houses high-level digital printing technology, warehousing, "Pick and Pack" fulfilment and office facilities.

For the digital printing area which is maintained to specific ambient conditions of temperature and humidity, our Epigard SL (epoxy self-levelling resin system) was chosen to offer a seamless, easy clean finish with good chemical resistance and load resistance to enable it to support equipment including a 12 tonne "Onset" digital printing press (see below).

Other areas included the Pick and Pack fulfilment and Warehousing facilities, in which our Protect No. 1 heavy-duty floor coating system was used to guard the floor against general wear and tear, as well as to create





different zones by utilising coloured walkways (see below).

In the restrooms and cloakroom we installed our Epigard S.Q coloured quartz system in 'Emerald', which offered an eye-catching yet practical flooring solution for the area.

To achieve optimum curing characteristics and gain the best possible finish, all the epoxy-based systems required moderate temperatures during installation. However due to programme restrictions, installation had to commence in January when temperatures were often below freezing. Faced with the situation, our giant inflatable tents once again become an invaluable resource. Artificial heat was ducted into the tents to keep materials warm and dry and to provide a sheltered mixing and storage area. Extra heaters were then used keep the necessary floor areas warm.

After a successful installation, and the remainder of the scheduled work had been completed, it was clear that the floor finishes had 'done their bit' in creating a pleasant, safe and practical working environment for the staff at the new site.



Workforce Training Initiative

At the start of 2008, we developed a comprehensive training initiative to get all employees involved in a programme of continuous professional development.

The training was designed in conjunction with Construction Skills, FeRFA and Business Link, to cater to individual's requirements, from our site operatives to our office staff.

The training courses have ranged from NVQ qualifications in In Situ Resin Flooring and Toolbox Talks, to IT Development

workshops and Business Management Seminars. Implementing this training ensures that our staff remain at the forefront of their professions and keep updated with the latest research and any other industry changes.

Since the start of the year, many of our flooring operatives have completed their NVQ Level 2 in In Situ Resin Flooring, which has involved many hours of on-site auditing on the theoretical and practical aspects of resin flooring specifications, application and health and safety issues.

We would like to congratulate the following individuals on their achievement:

Darran Breary
Paul Campbell
Anthony Corbishley
Andrew Dennis
Adam Ford
Richard Garratt
Neil Goddard
Martin Hargreaves

Chris Jackson
Paul Knowles
Aaron Lee
Denis Lomax
Phillip Meakin
Mark Oliver
Anthony Pennington



New Floors on the Menu for Lake District Hotels

As part of a programme of planned refurbishments and new facilities at the exclusive 'Inn on the Lake' Hotel in Ullswater, a complete kitchen renovation was intended for February 2008. This was to include a new durable resin floor finish and drainage system, providing a safe working environment for the chefs and kitchen staff.

Initially the existing, badly worn terrazzo tiles and tile bed were removed. The floor levels then needed to be brought back up to the correct level, so we used our fast-curing Rizistalcrete co-polymer screed. Localised falls were created around the new, strategically placed 'Aspen Range' drainage channels and gullies to assist with the future cleaning of the kitchen floor. Once the screed had cured and been prepared, the floor was ready to accept the new resin floor finish. Due to the floor finish requirements, our Uragard HT120W polyurethane screed was chosen as it could provide a hygienic, anti-slip, yet easy to clean surface.

The Skiddaw Hotel in Keswick (also owned by Lake District Hotels) underwent a kitchen refurbishment at the same time, as part of ongoing renovations. Here we removed an existing vinyl floor covering before laying a new seamless Uragard HT resin screed on the prepared concrete substrate.



THE DRIVING FORCE AT JOHN LORD

We were delighted to take delivery of the first of our new, custom-built wagon and trailer units this April, boasting an impressive red and black livery that represents our new corporate look. The new wagon will be able to transport greater loads of our product from our base in Bury to sites across Great Britain and Europe, easing the logistical challenges of our Transport Dept.



Building Solid Foundations with Customers

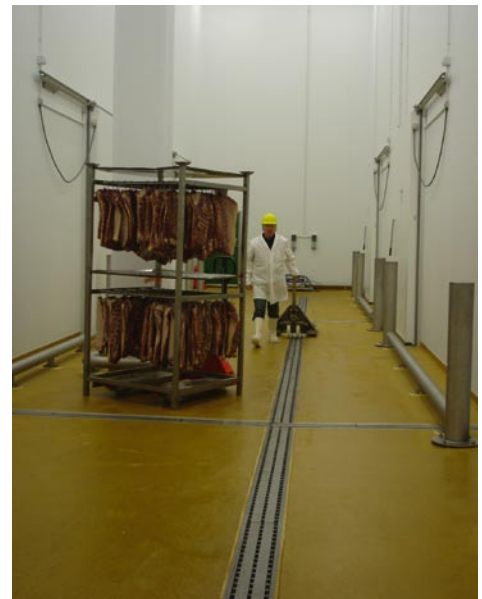
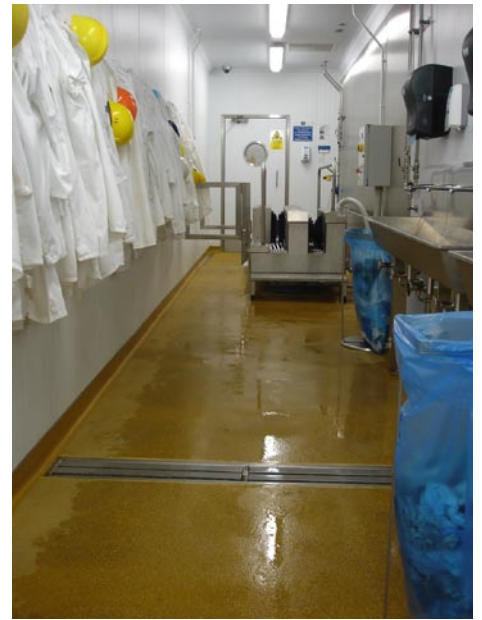
We are proud of the long-standing and successful relationships that we have built up with our customers over the years. Some of the benefits that come with this are mutual trust and effective project management.



Cranswick Country Foods PLC are no exception to this and we were extremely pleased to continue working with this forward-thinking company on a recent project for their new speciality bacon products facility.

The Project Management Team at Cranswick Country Foods PLC controlled the project from start to finish, choosing and appointing companies who have a tradition for strong and committed control of their projects, which negated the need for outside project management sourcing.

The requirements for the project included the supply and installation of top quality, high performance resin flooring systems and associated bespoke stainless steel drainage. Due to programme restrictions, much emphasis was placed upon working to strict deadlines and in close liaison with other trades to accomplish the Phase 1 and 2 completions on time. Despite these constraints, our contracts expertise of working on in-situ projects within the food industry proved invaluable to the client.



Supporting the Local Community - Hi-Vis Vests for Kids

It is reported that every 16 minutes, a child is hurt or killed on UK roads, and the supply of hi-visibility wear for school children is one way of making Britain's school children safer.

When a local primary school approached us for sponsorship of their 'hi-vis vests for school kids' initiative, we gladly took up the offer, providing 40 vests for children aged 7-11.

Exhibitions 2008

After a successful Foodex Meatex exhibition earlier this year, we are looking forward to the PPMA show, held at the NEC in Birmingham from the 30th September to the 1st October. As usual we will be exhibiting our interactive flooring stand with its range of anti-slip systems for visitors to try out. We hope you'll come along to take a look at some of our new products or to quiz Jeff and John about any floor-related queries you may have!

