

INSITE

The Newsletter for the



New Improved Terms & Conditions



The Board are delighted to announce that in their continued effort to reward staff for their contributions to the success of the business that new benefits will be introduced for all staff from the 1st January 2006

These will include:-

1. An increase in the number of holidays by a further 4 days for all staff.
2. The introduction of a Medical Cash Plan across the group for all staff, covering dental, optical, health screening, specialist consultations, acupuncture, physiotherapy, personal accidental cover, a 24hour confidential helpline and face to face counselling sessions.
3. Interest free loans of up to £1,000 available for all monthly salaried staff to purchase IT equipment. (Loans payableback over an 18 month period.)
4. Childcare Vouchers – available for all employee's that pay for childcare for Children up to the age of 16.
5. Pensions – all monthly salaried staff will receive a contribution from WJ payable into a pension fund.

All the above are subject to certain terms and conditions – full details will be published shortly.

Group Managing Director, Mark Watkin Jones said,

“The success of the company is down to the individuals we employ and it is they who are our most valuable assets. I am determined to offer long term commitment to our staff and the introduction of these improved benefits hopefully goes some way to reflecting our commitment.”



Bryn Terfel, Mari Wyn Williams & The Eisteddfod Youth Choir

Watkin Jones Group were this year one of the main sponsors of the National Eisteddfod of Wales, held at the Vaynol Estate, near Bangor.

The National Eisteddfod of Wales can be traced back to 1176 when it is said that the first Eisteddfod was held, under the auspices of Lord Rhys, at his castle in Cardigan.

There he held a grand gathering to which were invited poets and musicians from all over the country. A chair at the Lord's table was awarded to the best poet and musician, a tradition that prevails in the modern day National Eisteddfod.

The total attendance this year was 157,920

Site Visit by First Minister



Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM, First Minister Visited the new Antur Waunfawr recycling centre at Cibyn Industrial Estate, Caernarfon and was met by local labour candidate Martin Eaglestone & Huw Davies from Antur Waunfawr.

Droylsden Marina Development



The Board of Directors are pictured at Droylsden Marina with Chairman Glyn Watkin Jones & Councillor Kieran Quinn

Plans to create a new luxury £100m canalside marina in Droylsden, have moved a step closer following the signing of the legal agreement between the council and its development partners Watkin Jones.

Plans for the eight hectare site include high quality housing, retail units, leisure facilities, restaurants, bars and a hotel. As well as a 30 boat secure marina. The marina will also front an open-air amphitheatre on a floating stage. Work is expected to start on site in the summer of next year and the entire development is expected to take around six years to complete.



SCHOLARSHIP



Students collecting their PPE

The Scholarship Programme, in partnership with Coleg Menai provided 5 students with an excellent opportunity to gain real work experience within the industry. Each student spent 1 week in each of the disciplines (Design, Homes & Construction Site, Technical, Procurement and Buying) and a further 4 weeks in a discipline of their choice.

The scheme offers the possibility of full time employment with the company following successful completion of the course, and provides financial support for students during the academic year. Following the success of the programme we have already received over 15 applicants for the 2005 intake.

A big thank you goes to all staff for their support, guidance and time given to the Coleg Menai Scholarship Students over the last 10 weeks. All of the students feel they have gained in experience and have enjoyed their time with us.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS



Mona House, Llangefni



Grampian Country Foods,

OTHERS

Holyhead Retail Park,
Arriva Bus Depot, Bangor,
Houses, Dolgellau
Work Shops Antur Waunfawr, Caernarfon

New Contracts



Coleg Menai Reception Block, Bangor
New Look, Fit Out, Holyhead
Probation Service Centre, Colwyn Bay
Industrial Units, Huyton



The Watkin Jones North West Wales Junior Squash Open



Mark Watkin Jones presents prizes

The Watkin Jones North West Wales Junior Squash Open was this year held at Plas Ffrancon Leisure Centre, Bethesda & the Arfon Leisure Centre, Caernarfon. It was an excellent event attracting 75 entries from all over North Wales in age groups of U9 to U18.

MEET THE BUYERS



The Group was recently represented by Brian Rawlings and Elen Davies at a Meet The Buyers event organised by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply in Birmingham. 135 companies requested to be met and 50 companies were met by our representatives, which has enabled us to add these companies to our current data base of suppliers.

Current Developments



- 22 no 3 & 4 bed houses at The Estuary, Holywell
- 22 no 4 bed houses at Summerhill, Wrexham
- 40 no 3 & 4 bed houses at Trevor, Wrexham
- 58 no 1 & 2 bed apartments at Barton St, Manchester
- 60 no 1 & 2 bed apartments at Boulevard Works, Nottingham
- 44 no 1 & 2 bed apartments at Brian Bevan Island, Warrington

Forth Coming Developments

- Houses, Penrhos Rd, Bangor
- Apartments, Gorse Stacks, Chester
- Houses, Llangefni



LINCOLN

Student Accommodation



Bradford



NEW FOR 2006

Bradford 484 Bedrooms, Sheffield 256 Bedrooms

Completion For September 2005

Newcastle 281 Bedrooms, Preston 298 Bedrooms
Lincoln 224 bedrooms, Nottingham 256 Bedrooms

STAFF NEWS



New Staff

Anna Fish	PA to J Thomas	Newmark Developments
Tony Dean	Site Manager	Construction
Jeff St Paul	Development Manager	Group
Ian Allison	Site Engineer	Construction
David Owen	Assistant Director	Construction
Wendy Forrest	Sub-contract Supervisor	Group
Jane Milne	PA to MD	Group
Eve Gerrard	Sales Negotiator	Homes
Debra Slater	Sales Negotiator	Homes
Arnie Brown	Site Manager	Construction
Andy Savage	Development Surveyor	Newmark Developments

Retired

Jack Liptrot	Site Manager	Construction
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Launch of Newmark Developments

September will see the launch of Newmark Developments Limited, a new group company which is being set up to run the groups Special Projects and will be headed by John Thomas. Effectively the Special Projects Division will become Newmark Developments who will continue to co-ordinate and project manage the current schemes as well as provide quantity surveying, project management, and other services and assistance to group and associated companies. The creation of the new company will provide a more structured developer / contractor relationship on these more complex projects.

TRAINING



Due to our continued commitment to increase our staff development, we now have a permanent Training Suite at our Head Office. We recently carried out IT File Management Courses and Power Project Training in our new facilities and feedback received from you all was excellent!



New Training Suite

Over 45 members of staff have attended a Contract Law Seminar this year, once again positive feedback has been received. Forth-coming training includes Time Management & Assertiveness (company wide) in October, and Health & Safety Training for our QS's. A handful of staff have now completed a Spoken Welsh Course over a 5 week period, da iawn chi! Congratulations go to the following members of staff who have completed the following academic courses:

CPC - Cenwyn Williams, Nathan Hendy and Les Griffith HNC Building Studies - David Jones (Trainee QS) We will hopefully be recruiting a number of Graduates on the 17th August, where we will be conducting a 2nd Interview selection day, which will include tests, presentation and activities.



Graduate Selection Day