

LINNEYgroup

Here are a few things that are keeping us busy at Linney Group:

Key Issue

Security

We are always reviewing our security. It's one of those subjects that, if handled badly, makes people think we are being unreasonable, but if handled well, it stacks up as making sense to most of us.

The main aim of security is to protect the property of each one of us, each one of our clients and to keep track of the thousands of things the Company owns and make sure they are still there. On top of all this, we want to make sure our workplaces are safe as well as happy places to be.



Over the years at Adamsway, we have continuously beefed up our on-site security by bringing in upgraded 360 degree HD cameras, installing the automatic gates, installing the smoke cloaks, tracking down who has got which Cotags, moving to electronically locked reception doors that have to be opened rather than being open as a default, improving our manned security and adding in 'snap to' cameras. The 'snap to' concept means cameras snap onto a movement when 'they' sense one they are not expecting. This could be someone breaking a building surround beam at 2am etc. We have recently issued lanyards that our Cotags have to be attached to which are colour-coded for security reasons.

When you read what we have done, you would think: "Blimey, sounds like Fort Knox!" However, although getting our security right is very important, making sure Adamsway has excellent security but doesn't feel like a prison is equally important. Even with the strong levels of security we have, we have done our best, and I hope have succeeded in ensuring you don't feel it's 'in your face' all the time.

We have also beefed up our firewall protection for our computer systems. Electronic security in terms of our computer systems is just as important as the physical security already mentioned. It will play an ever increasing role as all things electronic are used more widely across the Group because that is the world we are in.

The revised swipe card systems being introduced will do away with old fashioned 'clocking in' clocks in due course. Not only will these swipe cards advise payroll when we are here, they will also eventually be used to allocate our time to whatever we are doing whilst here, thus eliminating the dreaded time sheets. Electronic or digital information can be moved around the company far more cheaply, far more accurately and far more efficiently than the previous systems that needed people constantly adding up and duplicating data for different reasons such as payroll and cost sheets.

Finally, on security, the trump card remains US. We need to remain courageous and sharp on the matter. We need to challenge anyone we don't recognise or anything we feel is wrong. If you are unsure about the colour coding of the lanyards or the polo tops, or just have a security query or a suggestion, bring it up at your team meeting and we will set out to satisfy or respond to your suggestion. The main thing is to stay sharp and challenge anything that looks or feels odd.

Not the greatest subject for 1851 but one we must not underplay!

Nick Linney

Linney News

Thinner club

After Christmas when we are all oozing Christmas excess, Miles Linney came up with the idea of a 'Thinner Club' to help us shed some of those festive pounds.

Linney Group would sponsor participants to the tune of £5 per pound lost, proceeds to Portland College.

At the final May weigh-in, our 'Thinner' participants had raised £2,665 for the College! They were delighted.



Why Do We Do That?

ISO 9001:2008

Why do we spend time and effort getting what's called accreditations?

The main ones we focus on are ISO 9001:2008 which is about Quality Management Systems, and ISO 14001:2004, which is about Environmental Management System. The ISO stands for International Standards Organisation. This organisation tries to make sure that the standards are the same in each country.

It is worth taking a closer look at the importance and value to us that these standards represent. Both 9001 (quality) and 14001 (environment) help us to work to efficient business standards whilst taking account of ourselves, our planet and general environmental wellbeing. These standards are definitely not just ticks in a box. But what actually are they?

They are internationally recognised standards that help to ensure a recognised and consistent common sense approach to the management of our business activities and ones that external parties such as clients and suppliers can see and take a view on. By using them, we can demonstrate to our clients, supply chain and the community at large that we are minimising risk and reducing wastage, and are careful and considerate of our planet. Increasing customer confidence is critical to our future and although these accreditations aren't the only things we really work at, they do help because they are nationally and internationally recognised.

It is good that we recognise the importance of both these standards but with 14001, environment in particular, we have to really sign up and take on a moral responsibility.

Conforming to environmental legislation and meeting the growing challenges of a more planet-aware society means that our customers, suppliers, banks and we ourselves want us to do better from an environmental point of view, and so we should! We are all looking at ways of reducing our impact on the environment to ensure it is protected for future generations.

Many people consider environmental care to be beyond individuals but, in reality, it is very easy for every one of us to reduce environmental damage. The smallest measures such as reducing the volume of waste generated, or by using resources more efficiently can make a significant difference. There is also a collective result; if everybody and every organisation made a worthy contribution, then huge progress would be achieved. Many of the things we can do have tangible financial benefits for the business as well as making environmental sense.

We keep trawling through our business looking for waste we can eliminate, and as indicated in our Healthy Linney Person statement, we need to attack the 'wastes'. This is not just about 'spoiling' materials but also about waste of time, waste of people through bad manpower usage and waste of effort by having the same (or nearly) information on 10 different databases instead of just on one.

Not only are we able to cut out unnecessary duplication of work and be more environmentally conscious, but more importantly, the amount of time and effort spent doing this will be significantly reduced... and life could even be less frustrating because everything will work just that bit better!

Us at home

Try'athlon: Marathon men and women

Dave Johnson

"Working on the basis that it would be 'all right on the day', I rocked up to the event with my full-suspension £90 mountain bike and swimming 'boardies', to see everyone else giving their £1,000+ racers a final polish before pulling on their wetsuits!

"I think we were now more nervous of making fools of ourselves than of actually completing the race, but ignoring the accidental extra lengths of the pool, and getting lost in the transition area, we more than held our own as genuine 'Triathletes'.

"Great support from family and friends, and sheer determination to finish strongly, saw us all cross the line in far better times than expected, and made those afternoon beers in the sun taste all the sweeter. The theory had proved sound, and frankly all those 'professionals' who finished slower than us H Ha."



Neela McCullough

"It was one of those 'good idea at the time' scenarios! At the beginning of the year we talked about wanting to do a triathlon and then suddenly it was the day! A hot sunny Sunday Bank Holiday weekend, because we had nothing better to do!

"Dave Johnston, Mark Parkin-Coates and I put our four months of training to the test and did the Southwell Triathlon which consisted of three disciplines, 400-metre swim, 19km bike ride and a 5km run.

"With staggered start times, we all finished within our predicted times. A first for us all, but I am sure, not a last! So we are now Triathletes! It was all good training for the Adamsway to Skegness bike ride!"



Chris Wales

"I ran the Edinburgh marathon after finally deciding to step up to the full distance having run quite a few half marathons. The weather was beautiful, if you were a spectator that is! Sweltering 25° heat in Scotland! In May! Ah well, I was never going to run a world record but it put paid to any thoughts of a brilliant time.

"I came home in four hours, 30 minutes happy to have raised a few quid for Cancer Research.

www.justgiving.com/chriswales."



Samworth Challenge Team

“It seemed like a good idea early in the year when Miles asked who would be up for entering a team into the Samworth Challenge, (and if not, it seemed far enough away not to worry about too much). The Challenge involved seven miles of canoeing, nine miles of hill walking and 20 miles of mountain biking in a single day in the Lake District, the purpose being to raise money for charity.

“We recruited two fit and healthy clients, namely Steve Howells and Barry Maddison from McDonald’s, making the team of four with Dan Outram and myself. We needed to supply a team photograph so whilst at the annual Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) dinner we used the official photographer and as we were in our DJs we named ourselves the ‘Rat Pack’.



“Weeks and months went by and slowly the grim realisation of what we had taken on started to dawn. Before we knew it we were arriving at Lake Coniston on the evening before the event, being briefed in a room full of very fit and healthy competitors, and left feeling a little intimidated by the competition. But convinced ourselves that we were only there to raise money for charity and as long as we got round we’d feel it had been successful.

“First off was the canoeing, very wet and easy with the wind but power sapping against it. Then to the walk (still raining but now getting colder as we gained height) around the Old Man of Coniston, and then onto the bikes where we had a shortened route due to earlier issues with crews in the morning and eventually a very wet and tired team went back to base only to be told we were in the leading pack!

“As it turned out we got joint 2nd place and with that a £400 bonus for our chosen charity RMHC.”