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## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Well – Happy New Year to you and yours – let's try and make it through to the year end in safety and in good health!

New Year Resolutions? I have some:

- ✚ May I never hear “He’s an expert – he knows what he’s doing!”
- ✚ That I never see some numbskull hanging off an unsecured ladder
- ✚ That every portable electric device I inspect has an ‘in test’ label, dated and signed by a competent electrician;
- ✚ Every fire door is correctly fitted AND is kept shut!
- ✚ All fire extinguishers are properly signed and wall mounted PLUS are all in test date;
- ✚ All scaffold structures show a ‘scafftag’ weekly inspection log (Yeah! Right!)
- ✚ Risk assessments and work method statements are read by all the crew and strictly adhered to (Now it’s getting very iffy!!)
- ✚ That first aid kits are all clean and full.....and unused!
- ✚ Staff are all well aware of trip and fall hazards and self-check their work area daily
- ✚ That food and drink is only to be seen in the canteen and never on the shop floor.....

Oh! Well! I can dream....most of the above will be broken this coming week – I bet you!

Tough times ahead and our Charles retires this week; at the same time we have to lose Mandy – they have both been loyal and true to Explorer Associates and will be sorely missed but we, like most ‘small end’ Companies have to cut the cloth etc. and we have now completed an overhaul of our services making us leaner and more able to hold our charge rates for at least the next 6 months – so good news to our retained clients and a very competitive service / charge rate out to our ‘one off’ friends and clients using us ‘as and when’ – we continue to try harder!

I mentioned so-called ‘experts’ in the resolutions section – how about some reminders of the outcome of ‘experts’ at work:



Expert loading!

### HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTANTS, ENGINEERS AND PROJECT SPECIALISTS

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'Nuff said!



The expert farmer knows his weather conditions.....



Driver – check the rear door lock again please!



Read and observe all safety signs!

Paddy McCoy an elderly Irish farmer, received a letter from the Department for Work & Pensions stating that they suspected he was not paying his employees the statutory minimum wage and they would send an inspector to interview them.

On the appointed day, the inspector turned up.

"Tell me about your staff," he asked Paddy.

"Well," said Paddy, "there's the farm hand, I pay him £240 a week, and he has a free cottage.

Then there's the housekeeper. She gets £190 a week, along with free board and lodging.

There's also the half-wit. He works a 16 hour day, does 90% of the work, earns about £25 a week along with a bottle of whisky and, as a special treat, occasionally gets to sleep with my wife."

"That's disgraceful" said the inspector, "I need to interview the half-wit."

"That'll be me then," said Paddy !!!!!

Can I also in this 'kick off' to the New Year remind you of my hatred of ladders in general and of step ladders in particular – some you may have seen – some are new!





You keep at it Lads – 'cos it keeps us in business inspecting what remains of you post the fall!

*Be Safe out There!*

*Jerry*



*Happy retirement Jonny - you took my advice!!*