

**The Vertikal Press,
New England House/Level 5,
New England Street, Brighton BN1 4GH, UK.
Tel: 01273 884422 Fax: 01273 884477
e-mail: info@vertikal.net
web: www.vertikal.net**

**In Germany:
Vertikal Verlag,
Sundgaualle 15, D-79114, Freiburg, Germany
Tel: 0761 8978660 Fax: 0761 8866814
e-mail: info.vertikal@t-online.de
web: www.vertikal.net**

ADVERTISING SALES

Classified Advertising Worldwide:

Sophie Morton,
The Vertikal Press, New England House/Level 5,
New England Street, Brighton BN1 4GH
Tel: 01273 884878 Fax: 01273 884477
e-mail: sm@vertikal.net

France, Belgium and Spain

Hamilton Pearman, GMT, 32 rue de la 8 mai 1945
F-94510 La Queue en Brie
Tel: 01 4593 0858 Fax: 01 4593 0899
e-mail: hpearman@wanadoo.fr

Germany, Austria and Switzerland

Karlheinz Kopp, Vertikal Verlag, Sundganallee 15,
D-79114 Freiburg, Germany
Tel: 0761 8978660 Fax: 0761 8866814
e-mail: khk@vertikal.net

Italy

Fabio Potestà, Mediapoint, Corte Lambruschini,
Corso Buenos Aires 8, V Piano-Interno 7,
I-16129 Genova, Italy.
Tel: 010 570 4948 Fax: 010 553 0088.
E-mail: mediapot@tin.it

The Netherlands

Arthur Schavemaker, Kenter & Co., Postbus 130,
Sporstraat 21, NL-7470 AC Goor, The Netherlands.
Tel: 0547 275005 Fax: 0547 271831
e-mail: arthur@kenter.nl

UK and all other areas

Sophie Morton, The Vertikal Press
New England House/Level 5,
New England Street, Brighton BN1 4GH
Tel: 01273 884878 Fax: 01273 884477
e-mail: sm@vertikal.net

Design and typesetting by:
Ampersand, Tunbridge Wells, UK.
e-mail: ampersand.kent@btinternet.com

Printed by: VIP Print Ltd.

ISSN: 1467-0852

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incorporating

CRANESUK
THE MAGAZINE FOR CRANES AND ACCESS

The Vertikal Press also publishes:

Kran & Bühne
THE MAGAZINE FOR CRANES AND ACCESS

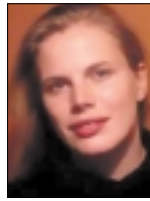
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Press**

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COMMENT



Welcome to my first edition of *Cranes and Access*. Since taking over as Editor in October I have been fortunate to meet many people in the business. This is an opportunity to speak to the rest of the magazine's readers and, most importantly, a perfect time for you to give some feedback. What do you like or dislike about the magazine? Are we missing any features that you would like to see?

One of the issues that really concerns me is safety. Since October, several construction workers have been killed. I would like to see this magazine publish information to help prevent the situations to blame for these accidents – how do you think this can be accomplished? Perhaps the magazine should call for better training and more regulation, or have a 'resident' health and safety expert to address queries raised by readers.

I hope that next year will see significant and positive developments in *Cranes and Access*, but to turn out a really good magazine, readers' comments are vital. After all, it is written for you. Don't just sit back and wish we would address your concerns – write in! I would like to feature readers' letters in every issue.

Part of the mission of the December edition is to give a snapshot view of what has happened to the lifting industry in the past 12 months and what we can expect for next year. This issue should provide you with some valuable information to take into 2002, whether you are concerned with buying used equipment, what's happening in tower cranes, or news and mergers among the major cranes and access manufacturers.

It has been a turbulent couple of months, in this country and every other. Between September 11 and today, we have seen the outbreak of a conflict that touches every aspect of our lives. The mood, particularly of the US citizens who have unwittingly become targets of a Jihad (ask the average westerner what that word meant on September 10) has become something of a simmering, barely controlled hysteria.

We need to remember that during these troubles, the construction industry, as much as any other, is essential. It is important that we fight to keep trading and manufacturing; that we improve our infrastructure and keep people in work. It's time for your business to sit up and take notice of every single opportunity – particularly in the government programs to improve UK hospitals and schools – if you plan to ride out this storm.

Let us hope that, even in the face of the conflict that sees us into 2002, Britain and the rest of the world has the fortitude and courage to continue building for the future. *Cranes and Access* wishes you a peaceful Christmas and a very successful New Year.

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Rosie Gordon
Editor

Letters, e-mails, faxes and phone calls are welcome and should be sent to: The Editor, *Cranes & Access*,
PO Box 3227, Brighton BN1 4UR, UK.
Tel: 01273 884422. Fax: 01273 884477.
E-mail: info@vertikal.net