



Noel McKee (centre) and Derek Martin of H&J Martin Limited help Claire Brown of Macmillan Cancer with her collection tins. H&J Martin has selected Macmillan as the company's first 'Charity of the Year'. Picture by Michael Cooper.

H&J Martin pledges support for Macmillan Cancer

Democracy is alive and well at H&J Martin after employees voted for Macmillan Cancer Support to become the company's first 'Charity of the Year'.

The prominent Northern Ireland building firm held a company-wide vote to select the charity to benefit from its charitable work this year and now H&J Martin will support Macmillan's work to improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

Noel McKee, Head of the Charity Committee at H&J Martin Limited, said, "We were looking for a charity which can make a real difference in people's lives. Macmillan Cancer fitted the bill. "Not only do we hope to raise valuable funds, but it's important that we also help to raise awareness for the services Macmillan provides to help those living with cancer."

Representing Macmillan, Claire Brown,

commented, "We are thrilled to have been selected as H&J Martin's official charity. Macmillan receives no Government support and therefore relies heavily on 'Corporate NI' to ensure we can continue providing vital services to those living with cancer across Northern Ireland. Having met with the H&J Martin charity committee team, and being welcomed with such enthusiasm and passion to get funds raised for our cause, I am very much looking forward to working together throughout 2011."

Charlene Millen, H&J Martin's Sustainability Manager, added, "The next 12 months are going to be very exciting for both H&J Martin Limited and Macmillan, with lots of fundraising events organised to help raise vital funds for Macmillan Cancer. This programme forms a core part of our company's strategy to engage employees in the wider corporate responsibility agenda."

Sustainable award for SISK

John Sisk and Sons Ltd has won a major all-island award for its dedication to sustainability. The general contracting company won the award for Best Sustainable Construction at the CMG Building & Design Awards in Dublin, with the judges praising Sisk's best practice initiatives and promotion of construction sustainability.

The company, whose Belfast team has been working on the new manufacturing building for the Bombardier CSeries aircraft this year, was also shortlisted in the Major Contractor of the



Year category and Public Building Project of the Year category, for its work on the Aviva Stadium. Chair of the judging panel and keynote speaker was incoming president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Dublin-born Angela Brady.

For more information on John Sisk and Sons, visit the website at www.sisk.co.uk

Scissor lifts safety warning

A safety warning has been issued on the use of scissor lifts, which have become popular with electricians.

The Health & Safety Executive (Northern Ireland) has issued a safety alert advising that certain types of users of certain types of scissor lifts make daily safety checks.

The alert follows the deaths of five people in three separate incidents when scissor lifts have overturned.

The alert is aimed at service and maintenance engineers and those in the construction industry who use, or lease out, JLG 500RTS and 400 RTS scissor lifts, to ensure that safety critical components are working correctly.

In all three fatal overturn incidents in Europe over the past four years, a number of recurring issues were discovered including the fact that the oscillating axle, which allows the machine to be driven on uneven ground with the platform in the transport position, failed to lock when the platform was raised. In addition, the lift/drive interlock system did not work, allowing the platform to be elevated above 6.7m without the stabilisers being deployed.

Owners of both these types of scissor lifts are being advised to ensure that the oscillating axle lockout system and the lift/drive cut out switches are checked for correct functioning (in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations) before the machine is next used and that users complete daily inspections and function testing of both elements.

Health & Safety executive Inspector, Richard Clarke, said, "Though this safety alert is primarily to warn those who own or use these specific models of scissor lift, and those with similar interlock systems, it should serve as a reminder to all users of mobile elevating work platforms that there is a need to regularly maintain, inspect and test the equipment. This isn't just recommended by manufacturers but is also required by law."

For more information on the issue, the safety alert can be viewed in full at www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/scissorlifts.htm

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