

creative sign consultants  
**design manufacture installation**



# 30th anniversary

# 2005

# Newsletter

Thirty years ago this year James Pack set in motion what would become JTP Sign makers. But the story begins much earlier than that....

As a young man he was always 'good at art' and he knew that he wanted to make use of this talent. At 14 he was apprenticed with a London firm of signwriters working in the west end and the city, mainly from a barrow. Over the next few years he learnt his trade watching his skilled colleagues and attending the College of Arms

near St. Pauls. The heralds, artists and scribes had occupied this building continually for over 300 years. Apprenticeship concluded, James was conscripted into the Royal Air Force for his National Service. His artistic skills were quickly realised and he found a niche sign writing the numbers and emblems on the aircraft. Working back in London his reputation was growing and within a few years he was commissioned by the Min-



*College of Arms in St. Pauls London*



*P&O Ferry Terminal - Belfast*

[www.jtpsignmakers.co.uk](http://www.jtpsignmakers.co.uk)

**0800 7316532**

istry of Works, gold gilding at prestigious sites including 10 Downing Street & Westminster Abbey.

It was during the 1960's that, as a self employed signwriter, James developed as a sign consultant working with the likes of Conran on the Habitat shop in London and with the design group Wolff Olins on the new identities for P&O and Bovis. Having set up a larger studio in the suburbs of London he decided to incorporate his consultancy, design service and sign manufacture and by the end of 1974 JT Pack limited was born. Still receiving commissions for P&O and Bovis he had now gained a reputation as someone who could realise the designer's 'bigger ideas'. Exhibition work took him all over the UK and Europe. These were the most hectic few years he had experienced.

In 1977 he was joined by much needed business partner, Heather Harvey. Two years later, in 1979, they decided to relocate to the South Coast. To move the business forward they needed larger premises, perhaps a less hectic life style near the sea and the New Forest, yet still only an hour or so away from London.

During this time computer technology really began to impact on the sign industry,

and in 1984 Stephen Harvey, a photography graduate with a flair for computers, joined the company. He helped set up a computer and a sign plotter to cut vinyl letters, work previously done laboriously by hand. It is hard to believe that this was 20 years ago!

### **...beginning to build a reputation as someone who could realise the designers bigger ideas...**

In the early days Stephen would split his time between signs and working for English Heritage on photography commissions, recording the restoration work being done in Southern England and the Isle of Wight. He worked along side James and learnt to love working with type and within the signmaking industry. Stephen was made a director of the company five years ago, when James retired from day to day working to enjoy a more leisurely lifestyle. In 2005 JTP Signmakers is a fully modernised company, utilising the latest computer technology and sign software, underpinned with sound design knowledge and sense. Backed up by its team of seven dedicated full timers, five of whom have been with the company for more than ten

years and a full complement of equipment. They offer a full in house service, including screen printing for short runs and specialist work (like printing on glass) also a wide format, six colour, digital-printer. Using UV stable ink technology they are able to print directly on to materials that can be used outside. A recently installed large flat bed router enables the profile cutting of shapes in an amazing range of materials.

The sign industry, without question, is very different from the one that James started in all those years ago, but it is still one in which craft and expertise are the most sought after qualities. Stephen was recently accepted as a member of the 'Sign Design Society', satisfying recognition that James has passed on some of his skills to a new, younger generation.



Duck Island lane  
Ringwood  
Hampshire BH24 3AA

**T+44(0) 1425 477841**  
F +44 (0) 1425 480238  
info@jtpsignmakers.co.uk

- signs
- screen printing
- bespoke construction
- vehicle livery
- digital printing
- safety signs/labels

Vehicle wrapping 60's style (with paint!)



Handcut letters - The Hit Factory London



The Bovis sponsored Aston Martin - James would signwrite a few panels in case they were damaged during racing!

30th anniversary

2005

If you would like details about any of our services or assistance on any signage or display project, please contact:

**0800 7316532**