



NEWSLETTER

December 2022



South-West Graduate Diaries

In September 2022, Amey's South-West Unit welcomed three graduates to the contract across the Quality and Media departments. Find out what the graduates have been doing in their first three months in their diaries below.

Amy Eastcroft

I joined Amey as a Quality Graduate; amid a 2-year Graduate Programme within the Transport Infrastructure division I predominantly work across three contracts including South-West Trunk Roads supporting the quality management systems (QMS). Prior to my current employment I studied Chemistry at the University of Strathclyde and briefly worked as a formulation and production chemist. I think my biggest challenge will be adapting to a new career however I am enjoying my role so far and have particularly liked the responsibility of managing the audit programmes. Looking ahead I plan to continue my development through BSI Internal Auditor Training.

Amy McAteer

I started on Amey's graduate scheme as the Media and Communications Graduate for the South-West contract. I studied at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, where I gained an undergraduate degree in French and Spanish translation and a postgraduate degree in management and communications. I then worked for a year in a customer-facing role at a car rental company before joining Amey. I've really enjoyed my time at Amey so far! It's been a challenge and no two days have been the same, but I've loved learning every day and being given more responsibility. I've also enjoyed having the opportunity to help with Amey's community involvement and give careers talks in schools within the network.

Zygimantas Dauksas

Hi, my name is Zygimantas and I joined Amey as a Quality Graduate. After graduating from the University of Strathclyde with a Chemical Engineering degree I first started working for a biomedical company that produced Hyaluronic Acid and this is where I gained further insight on how the quality function operates. In late June this year I came across an opportunity for a Quality Graduate role within Amey and given my keen interest in quality, I decided that this an opportunity that I must take! To my pleasure I got accepted and this is how my journey with Amey began.

One of the things I have enjoyed so far, is being able to see the direct impact your work has to the wider business. Being able to work on big contracts in

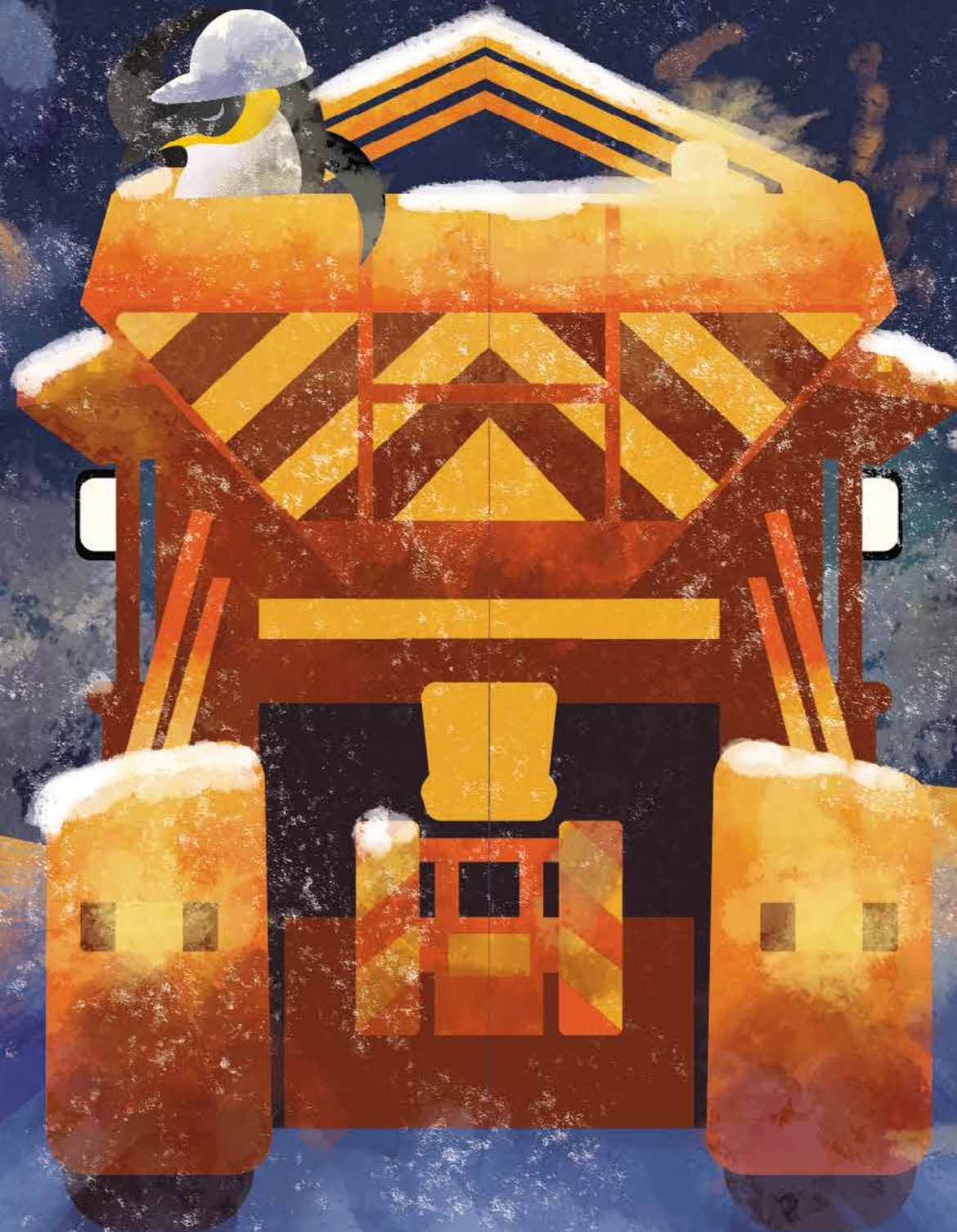
the quality function gives me a sense of responsibility to do my job well and drive for improvements.

The biggest challenge so far has been getting accustomed to the nature of contractual requirements and how the compliances of these should be verified. However, I have already done several audits and I am learning more and more with each audit. The company also provides the required professional training to achieve competence, so this is always encouraging and motivating! I am sure I will come across many more challenges that I will enjoy and look forward to continuing my journey with Amey!



Amey Gritters

Ready for Action in South-West Scotland



To prepare for this Winter, Amey have amassed 25,000 tonnes of road salt, 231,000 litres of brine, and 50,000 litres of potassium acetate, overseen by 10 Winter Service Duty Officers (WSDO), providing a 24/7 presence on the network. The 17,500-tonne capacity salt barn at Amey's Polmadie Depot, established last winter, will continue to provide increased resilience in tackling adverse weather conditions across the network.

The Winter Service is comprised of 27 Frontline Routes, 15 Patrol Routes, and 12 Footway Routes (requiring 197km of winter treatment). The service is delivered by 56 Econ gritters and snowploughs, 16 new footpath gritters, 12 tractors, and 115 Highways Operatives. Winter Patrol vehicles are equipped with the latest Mobile Condition Monitoring Equipment and are fitted with Dash Cams. In addition, an innovative liquid brine solution is being used on all our roads and footpaths, to provide a more effective clearance of ice and snow.

New Names Sought For Amey Gritters

We are once again running our popular gritter-naming appeal that has, to date, led to over 3,000 gritter names being submitted by the Scottish public for consideration. Entries will be accepted between Monday 12th December 2022 until Monday 16th January 2023. The newly named gritters will join classics such as "Sir Grits Hoy", "Yes Sir, Ice Can Boogie", "Skid Vicious" and "Sweet Child O' Brine".

Winners from last year's competition and new additions to the fleet for the 2022/2023 winter season include:

"Jack Jarvice" and "Victor McSprayed" (Jack Jarvis & Victor McDade from TV's "Still Game")

"Snowey Tribbiani" (from TV's "Friends")

"Betty White-out" (Betty White)

"Snowing Me, Snowing You" (Abba)

"Sir David Attenbrrrrr" (Sir David Attenborough)

"Gritney Spears" (Britney Spears)

Scotland's tradition of coming up with inventive and fun names for their gritter fleet has gone viral on social media and made headlines around the world. Amey's South-West fleet, with their distinctive bright orange livery attracted the attention of IRN-BRU®, with gritter "Grits You Thru" joining the winter fleet in December 2020. And last year, another iconic Scottish treat joined the fleet with staff at family-run bakery Tunnock's choosing "Caramelt Wafer".

Gritter names can be submitted here until Monday 16th January 2023.

Our website will once again be hosting an online Santa's Grotto, which features fun festive activities for young people, including colouring-in sheets, quizzes and things to make and do. The grotto can be found [here: https://swtrunkroads.scot/winter-service/visit-our-xmas-grotto/](https://swtrunkroads.scot/winter-service/visit-our-xmas-grotto/).



Transport Scotland Winter launch 2022

On Thursday 3rd November 2022, Amey colleagues were pleased to attend this year's Transport Scotland Winter Launch. This event marks the official beginning of Amey's winter service and was attended by representatives from Transport Scotland, Police Scotland, the Met Office, and Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth. Those who attended heard speeches concerning safe driving, a projected winter weather forecast and details of how much salt was in storage and ready to be distributed across the country.

For Winter 2022/23, Amey South-West Trunk Roads are issuing daily Winter Service Alerts. This is a free service and all you need is an email address to receive them. [Sign-up here: https://swtrunkroads.scot/register/](https://swtrunkroads.scot/register/)



Winter Alerts

To support the travelling public, a free Winter Road Alerts service is available, providing real-time updates on weather-related incidents on the network.

An email address is all that is required to sign up for this service. [Sign-up here.](#) Our full NMC SW Winter Plan can be found on the Transport Scotland website.



Inside Central Station

Back in May 2022 the NMC South-West contract welcomed the production team of BBC Scotland's Inside Central Station to film inside the Kingston Bridge on the M8 for its fourth series. Local historian Peter Mortimer joined the crew to detail how the bridge contributed to societal change in the Anderston neighbourhood of Glasgow.

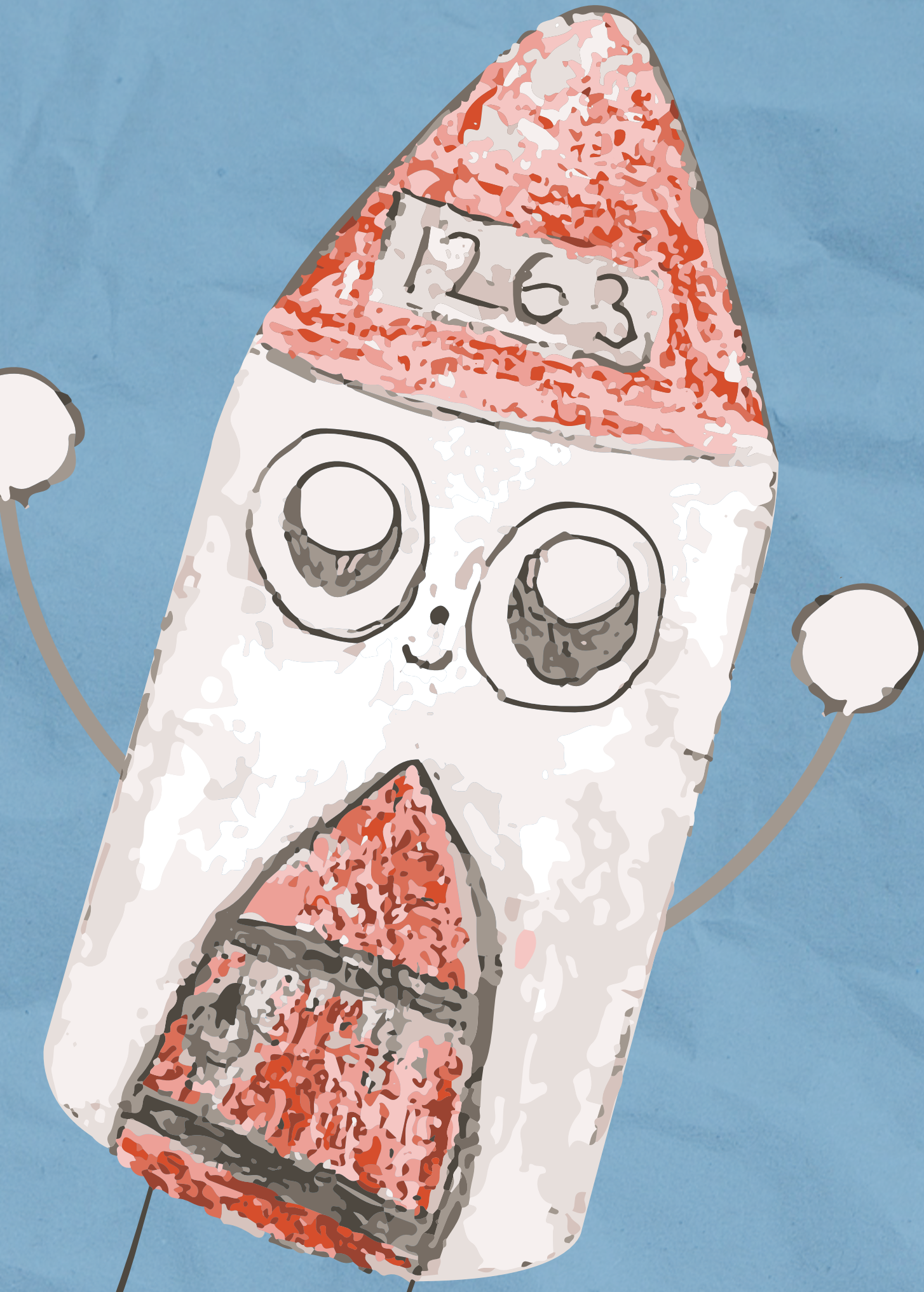
The footage has now aired, and you can catch Kingston Bridge's starring role around 44 minutes into Episode 6.

Watch here
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001dl4f/inside-central-station-series-4-episode-6>

Thanks to the NMC SW Major Bridges team for facilitating this visit.



BRAKE Road Safety Week 2022

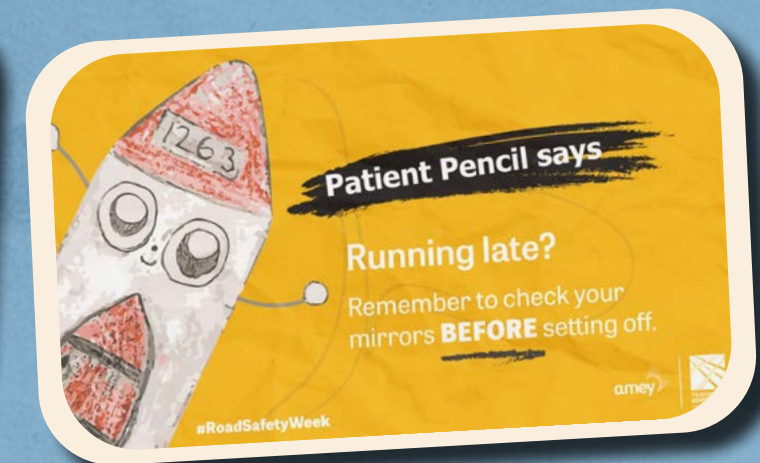
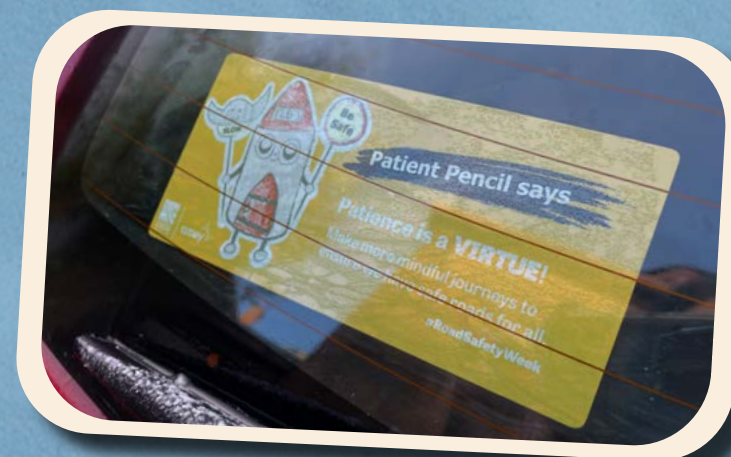


Brake Road Safety Week 2022 took place between Monday 14th November and Sunday 20th November 2022 and Amey South-West Trunk Roads were delighted to support the campaign that championed SAFE ROADS FOR ALL. Thousands of schools, community groups and organisations got involved with BRAKE reaching many millions of people with this year's message to ensure that everyone has the right to make safe and healthy journeys on our roads. To support the event, Amey teamed up with Largs Primary School to design a Road Safety Week mascot.

After much tough decision-making, PATIENT PENCIL was selected as the winner. Patient Pencil, designed by pupil Leah Mitchell, is inspired by The

Pencil, a Largs monument that commemorates the Battle of Largs 1263, when the Scots defeated King Haco of Norway's troops on the shore at Largs, after 160 long ships got caught in a storm.

Patient Pencil aims to encourage road users and pedestrians to make more mindful journeys to ensure we have safe roads for all. Throughout the week, we shared some of Patient's best road safety tips online to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the roads this winter and beyond. On Friday 9th December 2022, the Amey team stopped by Largs Primary School to present the winner with two life-size cut-outs of Patient Pencil as well as some stickers and other gifts for the school.



Wallacetown Community Garden Project

Colleagues from Amey South-West Trunk Roads have been working alongside VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) and the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (SVRU). The SVRU use a public health approach to policing which focuses on prevention work. The SVRU's officers work closely with communities supporting projects to improve wellbeing and safety.

The first of these projects is Wallacetown Community Garden in Ayr that will be delivered in two phases. Phase one took place in October 2022, with six Amey operatives who spent one week relaying unseated slabs and creating a path to Newton Primary School. Phase two will be delivered over the coming months with the Amey team returning to do more work and make the area easier to maintain for the local gardening group, as well as making a space for the community to unite. This garden is a vital resource as it provides a communal green space for residents to enjoy as many in the area do not have a garden of their own. Many thanks to the operatives involved with this project, and we look forward to returning to the area.

Inspector Jason Peter of the SVRU said: "Residents identified the garden area as a space where they can gather, connect with others and just pass time. The path is the first step in physically upgrading the garden area and supporting the wishes of the local gardening group who have been looking after this spot."

"The path being upgraded and making a new connection is significant in terms of the wider work to make Wallacetown a place where people are safe, healthy and want to live. We look forward to the next steps in the partnership with residents."



A* Awards

On Sunday 31st August 2022, around 2am, a team of Amey operatives were working beneath the Baird Street Bridge in Glasgow, installing control pillars underneath the structure, close the high masts. The operatives - Alan McLelland, David McEwan and Mark Gammage – observed a young teenager above them, around 18 to 20 metres from the ground, on the edge of the bridge, potentially about to jump onto the road below.

Ensuring at least one of the team was keeping the young person engaged in conversation, the operatives proceeded to assist as best they could. Mark called for the Police, while David, realising that there was a Police Station nearby ran to fetch them directly. Meanwhile, Alan had made his way to the topside of the bridge and very calmly spoke with the young person and kept them calm while waiting for help to arrive.

Meanwhile, a taxi driver had also spotted the incident and joined Alan on the bridge to comfort the young person and praised the operatives for their swift and compassionate response. Shortly after, a large contingent of Police vehicles arrived,

by which time Alan had been able to bring the young person back from the edge and had moved them to a safe place.

The Police escorted the young person from the bridge, to receive treatment at a nearby hospital. The Amey A* Star Courage Award was presented to Alan and David (Mark was unable to attend that day) by Brian Park, Operating Company Representative for the NMC SW Contract, at Polmadie Depot in the presence of their colleagues. The three operatives knew they had been nominated for an award and had been notified that they had made it to the final ten, but even then, admitted they had never actually expected to win. Accepting the award, Alan and David remained remarkably humble about their achievement, stressing that the most important thing was that they had intervened to prevent a young person from coming to harm.

Alan commented: "You think to yourself, what if that was my own child up there, you just wouldn't want to see anyone (in a situation) like that, and you feel the need to act, to do something to help."



(Left to Right): Alan McLelland, Brian Park, David McEwan

Carman Road Tree Removal

A resident of Carman Road, in Renton, Dumbarton had contacted Amey expressing concerns about the condition and proximity of a large tree, adjacent to the A82 trunk road, which she was worried could fall onto her house in severe weather.

Amey's environment team agreed that this tree and others nearby presented a hazard, and plans were prepared to have the trees removed as quickly as possible. This involved an initial assessment by an arborist on the effects of removing the tree on the masonry walls that retain the A82 embankment. Monitoring of the condition of the masonry walls was undertaken before, during and after the work had been completed, to ensure the structures continued to operate effectively.

An ecologist was employed to ensure the tree didn't have any bats residing in it, using surveys of bat movements and roosting at dawn and dusk. Meanwhile, BT overhead cables at the location had to be dropped and reconnected

at ground level.

Once plate bearing tests on the A82 were complete a crane was moved into position to assist with the removal, and temporary acoustic fence panels were installed to reduce the noise from tree works and the crane lift.

The work required a contraflow system operating on the A82, with overnight closures of the northbound and southbound carriageways to allow this traffic management to be added and then removed.

The trees themselves were removed in sections, with each tree climbed and rigging attached to the tree and the crane so sections could be cut and lifted straight out onto the A82 works site, where they were processed for removal as biomass of firewood materials.

So overall, a huge and complex job that thankfully went very successfully.

The resident watched the tree works from her kitchen window and expressed her gratitude to the Amey teams, and said she was very impressed by the skill and hard work of everyone involved. She will now sleep safely on stormy nights.



Ash Dieback

Amey, on behalf of Transport Scotland, are undertaking essential steps to combat the effects of Ash Dieback along our road network. This work will help to keep road users safe and will stabilise trees across South-West Scotland to prevent further disruption.

Evidence from Europe suggests that Ash Dieback will lead to the decline and death of 50% - 75% of ash trees in Scotland over the next two decades and has the potential to infect more than 75 million ash trees across the country. If the affected trees along our network are left untreated, road users and the travelling public could be impacted.

Following guidance from the Tree Council and Scottish Forestry, and

having assessed the network, it has been decided that essential steps must be taken to ensure the safety of road users and the network.

Clearing the diseased and dying trees as part of our Tree and Woodland Maintenance and Management Strategy offers an opportunity to not only prevent further spread of the disease, but also to improve the biodiversity and the resilience of our road network.

The first of these schemes began on the M74 in November 2022, and all related schemes will be advertised on our website. Full details on Ash Dieback can be found [here: https://swtrunkroads.scot/latest-news/ash-dieback/](https://swtrunkroads.scot/latest-news/ash-dieback/).



STEM Career Sessions

On Tuesday 8th October 2022, Amey colleagues, Aishwarya Rajanna and Martin Cochrane, visited St Luke's High School in Barrhead to deliver a STEM careers presentation to S3 pupils. During this presentation, students were made aware of which subjects would be beneficial to study as a gateway to get into the engineering profession.

Pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions and were given a short task to consider the kind of career they might like to choose and the steps they would take to achieve this.

Many thanks to Aishwarya and Martin for giving their time and providing a great session for St Luke's High School.

Kirkcudbright

Throughout October and November 2022, four Amey employees delivered a series of STEM careers sessions at Kirkcudbright Academy to a group of seventeen S2 and S3 pupils. On the 11th October 2022, James Jamieson gave an overview of Amey, focusing on the types of engineers that we employ on network maintenance contracts. The students were then challenged to build the tallest tower that could hold the weight of a soup tin for 60 seconds.

Garry Head and Michael Pagan delivered sessions on the 1st November and 8th November 2022 on their career journeys and their current roles within Amey. The sessions concluded with a group engineering task. and finished the session with a group task.

Jessica Masterton delivered a session on Social Value at Amey on the 15th November 2022.

The session was completed with a fundraising poster-making task, creating posters for the RNLI, Foodbank, and Save the Swimming Pool, which they are currently trying raise awareness for in Kirkcudbright.

Tanya McNaught, event co-ordinator at Kirkcudbright Academy, said 'the insightful sessions from a variety of professionals within the engineering sector were inspiring and engaging. They provided an opportunity for pupils to consider a range of roles within engineering.

The knowledge gained will be valuable when pupils engage in their own career decision making process'.

Many thanks to the Amey team for giving their time and providing great sessions in Kirkcudbright.

St Roch's

On the 30th September 2022, Transport Infrastructure employee Christie Hoggan attended St Roch's secondary school as part of a two-session event to support pupils in their career journeys.

Christie delivered a CV workshop to the school pupils, which consisted of a 15-minute presentation followed by the pupils writing their own CVs.

On the 7th of October 2022, Transport Infrastructure employee Jessica Masterton attended St Roch's for the second session to deliver a mock interview workshop. The pupils,

some of whom had job interviews that weekend, listened to a 15-minute presentation on the "dos and don'ts" of an interview, and then conducted mock interviews of their peers.

Liza Abercrombie, Co-ordinator at Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) said "These sessions run by Amey gave our young people support to go out into the world of work and be successful. These sessions helped them be better prepared for interviews and gave hints and tips of ways to ensure their CV stood out."

Many thanks to all involved for delivering these valuable sessions to the pupils at St Roch's.



UWS

On Monday 21st November and Tuesday 22nd November 2022, five Amey Transport Infrastructure employees attended the STEM West Careers Fair at the University West of Scotland Clydebank Campus.

The event held by Developing the Young Workforce was targeted towards 600 S3-S5 pupils, all with an interest in a career within STEM industries. On day one of the event Jessica Masterton, Zygimantas Dauksas, and Amy Eastcroft spoke to school pupils from Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire about job roles at Amey and the early careers programme. Ziggy and Amy, both current intakes of the Amey graduate scheme, provided first-hand insight and tips to the pupils about the programme.

Day two of the event was attended by Jessica Masterton, Rebecca MacDonald, and Carol Walker. This session was targeted at pupils from

schools in West Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde. On both occasions the Amey team demoed a VR Headset for the pupils, which showed a 360-degree video of an engineer standing at the top of the Forth Road Bridge.

The pupils had to guess the bridge they were standing on to win a prize. Jan McMahon, Developing the Young Workforce, Programme Executive said 'We had a fantastic 2 days for STEM West at West College Scotland, with over 50 employers showcasing and up to 600 pupils in attendance from our 4 local authorities: Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire & Inverclyde.

It was great to be back to an in-person event so young people could interact with employers and get an insight into a variety of STEM industries. Looking forward to STEM West 2023.'





Our Lady Secondary School

On Wednesday 9th November 2022, three members of Amey's Transport Infrastructure staff attended Our Lady Secondary School in Motherwell to give a series of talks to S5 and S6 pupils as part of their senior Careers Day. Staff members Jessica Masterton and Amy McAteer delivered 4 sessions in the morning on Mock Interview Skills, including a 15-minute presentation and a 30-minute task where the pupils could put what they had just learned into practise. In the afternoon, Collin Campbell delivered 3 sessions on engineering and the Amey graduate programme. Eilidh Simpson event co-ordinator at Our Lady said 'Jessica and her team delivered an informative, fun, and

engaging workshop to our S5/6 pupils focusing on interview skills. The pupils were able to hear about the dos and don'ts when going for an interview and were then given the opportunity to practice their interview techniques in smaller groups.

The insight talks delivered by Collin in the afternoon were excellent and gave pupils a clear understanding of career opportunities within Amey and the different pathways into these. We look forward to working in partnership with Amey throughout this academic year'.

Many thanks to all involved.

Toy Appeal

Dumfries

Amey staff were delighted to once again take part in the annual Dumfries and Galloway Standard Christmas Toy Appeal. This will ensure that all children, from newborns to sixteen-year-olds, will have a present on Christmas Day. Toys, including soft toys, books and baby items, were collected at the Dumfries Wayside depot

on Tuesday 6th December 2022.

In total, around £300 worth of toys were collected for children in need across Dumfries and Galloway. Many thanks to those that donated and to Rebecca Kirk for organising the event.



Winter Road Safety Sessions

In December 2022, a team of Amey employees made visits to Oakgrove Primary School in Glasgow and Dreghorn Primary School and Largs Primary School in North Ayrshire to deliver a series of presentations on winter road safety to a total of 940 primary school pupils. The presentations detailed how Amey keeps the roads safe during the colder months and pupils were given the chance to see one of our named gritters up close and ask lots of tough questions that had the team scratching their heads!

The children were also presented with traffic management toys, including traffic lights, road signs, and hard hats to play with and practice their road safety.

Many thanks to Martin Cochrane, Howie Christie, Robyn Dale, Jessica Masterton, Amy McAteer, Fin Robertson and Tommy White for all their hard work.



Christmas Message

2022 marked the second full year of the NMC South-West contract, and we have continued to successfully deliver on our programme of works, as well as design, manage and develop complex and challenging projects, such as the ongoing M8 Woodside Viaducts repair scheme.

The NMC SW contract commenced in August 2020, at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, but as restrictions have eased, we are seeing a gradual return to offices and depots and hopefully more opportunities to work alongside our fellow team members, in person rather than purely via the computer screen. This year, also saw the sale of Amey go ahead, with the final stages of the deal with our new owners, expected to complete early in 2023.

Sadly, this year, we also were reminded of the constant need to be vigilant and take care of each other on the network. For this reason, it remains important that our vigorous approach to health and safety continues to underpin all the work delivered on this contract, by ourselves and our contractors.

Please take some well-earned time over the festive season to relax, spend time with friends and family and have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Report a Problem

If you need to report an immediate issue on the South-West Trunk Roads network, please use our Report A Problem form on the website. Completed forms are sent direct to our control room who operate 24/7, 365 days a year.

[Report a problem](#)

Twitter <http://twitter.com/swtrunkroads>

Sign up for Roadwork Alerts

Roadwork alerts are available for all 17 of South West Scotland's Trunk Roads. This is a free service where the latest road maintenance and improvement schemes are announced FIRST. Updates on incidents and weather events will also be delivered straight to your inbox and you can personalise the alerts to your needs. All you need is an email address to get started.

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[Find us](#)

Website <http://www.swtrunkroads.scot/>

