



NEWSLETTER

SMITH & OUZMAN LTD

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SMITH & OUZMAN PRINTS LOCAL CURRENCIES

Smith & Ouzman has printed local currency for Lewes and Brixton as part of the Transition Town movement to help boost local trade, bring local communities together and strengthen local economies in preparation for a low carbon future.

In September 2008, Lewes, the county town of East Sussex, launched its own local currency - the Lewes Pound. Following the success of the first issue, which was valid for just one year, S&O was commissioned by The Lewes Pound Group to print a second issue of the Lewes Pound notes with improved security print features, higher denominations and a longer validation period.

In September 2009, Brixton followed suit and became the first urban town to introduce its own local currency.

S&O printed notes in denominations of One, Five, Ten and Twenty-One Lewes Pounds and One, Five, Ten and Twenty Brixton Pounds, incorporating multiple security print features to protect the notes against counterfeiting and forgery.

A variety of overt and covert security devices were used, including watermarked paper with embedded fibres, sequential serial numbering, ultraviolet (UV) ink that fluoresces under UV light, micro-text and a hologram foil.

Patrick Crawford from the Lewes Pound Group commented: "The knowledge and support attained from our partnership with Smith & Ouzman has allowed us to improve significantly the security of our Lewes Pound notes and provide multiple denominations that can only increase the prosperity of the town."

The Lewes Pound and Brixton Pound notes have been designed to commemorate local heroes. The effigy of Thomas Paine, the 18th century radical thinker who lived in Lewes for six years, appears on the front of all the Lewes Pound notes, where the Brixton Pound notes depict notable figureheads including, Vincent Van Gogh who moved to Brixton aged 20 and Olive Morris, the political activist who established the Brixton Black women's Group.

For further information on the Lewes Pound notes and Brixton Pound notes, visit www.thelewespond.org and www.thebrixtonpond.org



Mayor of Lambeth, Cllr Christopher Wellbelove spending his Brixton Pounds on a Christmas shopping spree



THE ADVANCE OF LOCAL CURRENCIES

Local currencies increase the local foot traffic in a town thereby strengthening the local economy and community.

The Transition Towns movement aims to encourage towns to adopt their own currencies to strengthen local economies and drive towards a low carbon future.

Why should towns introduce their own currency?

- To support local traders by encouraging local shopping
- To keep money circulating in the town, rather than leaking out of the community
- To cut CO2 emissions by reducing transport costs and using more local producers

How does a local currency work?

A local currency is a complementary currency that is redeemable for goods and services with local traders in a town. It can be used as well as, or instead of, sterling with participating businesses, and can help support the livelihoods of local traders and improve the prosperity of the town.

So far, four towns in the UK have joined the Transition Towns movement, introducing their own currency. These are the Totnes Pound in Devon, the Lewes Pound in East Sussex, the Stroud Pound in Gloucestershire and the Brixton Pound the UK's first urban area to adopt its own currency.

GLOBAL ELECTIONS

S&O assisted in the democratic elections of many post conflict and emerging democracy countries in 2009. Our excellent reputation for providing high quality voting materials to uphold the integrity of democratic elections was a key factor.

In January, S&O produced highly sensitive Final Voters Lists, containing the details of every registered voter, for the Iraqi Provisional Elections. The provisional elections, held to determine who would hold power after the end of US occupation, proved to be the most peaceful since the fall of Saddam Hussein.



Mauritania. The ballot papers were printed on both sides in French and Arabic and incorporating a number of overt and covert security features.

As in previous years, the high level of security was maintained with the ballot papers delivered by a dedicated AN12 chartered aircraft and escorted by a member of S&O staff.

Also in June, S&O produced the secure envelopes for the Lebanon Parliamentary Elections, into which the non-secure ballots were placed, which enabled traceability - the first time this type of envelope was used. Lebanon's 2009 Parliamentary Elections marked a critical first test of the agreement the country's rival factions signed in 2008.



Nearer home, S&O provided poll cards, postal ballot packs and traditional ballot papers for polling stations for the European & County Council Elections in the UK held in June. The results saw a dramatic shift in power from Labour to Conservative.

Nick Smith, S&O's Director, said: "It has been quite a year thanks to Smith & Ouzman's reputation, quality of work and ability to deliver on time helping us secure contracts in Iraq, Mauritania, Lebanon, Kenya, Liberia and the Palestinian Authority, as well as in the UK."

For further information on S&O's election services, visit www.smith-ouzman.com

350th ANNIVERSARY OF BRITISH CHEQUE 1659 - 2009

On 16th February 2009, the UK celebrated the 350th anniversary of one of the earliest handwritten cheques known to be in existence in the UK.

Some 58 years after its inception, the Bank of England produced the very first printed cheque at Grocers' Hall in London in 1717. Written in letter form, these 'drawn' notes were printed on cheque paper to prevent fraud, with scrollwork along the left-hand edge that could be cut through, leaving part on the cheque and part on the counterfoil. This served as a safety 'check' that the drawer was a bona fide customer of the Bank of England, which is how the cheque got its name.

New cheque orders for S&O

Although the UK has witnessed a dramatic decline in the popularity of the cheque in the last twenty years S&O has seen an increase in demand for printed cheques from the African continent.

This year S&O received new cheque orders from Access Bank in Côte D'Ivoire, Zenith Bank in Sierra Leone and Gambia and Diamondbank in Benin.

More than one million cheques were printed for each of the West African banks and dispatched directly from S&O's factory, which operates 24 hours a day, to ensure clients from all continents benefit from the same quality service and delivery.

For further information on S&O's financial services printing, visit www.smith-ouzman.com

BRITISH CHEQUE TIMELINE

- 1659: Date of earliest known surviving British cheque
- 1717: Bank of England introduced printed cheques
- 1770: Daily cheque clearings formalised
- 1811: First known personalised printed cheques produced
- 1833: First clearing house built in Lombard Street, London
- 1965: First cheque card issued
- 1966: First credit card introduced in the UK
- 1987: First debit card introduced in the UK
- 1989: First telephone-only bank introduced
- 1997: First internet banking service introduced
- 2007: Cheque volumes declined by fastest rate ever
- 2008: Payments Council propose closure of cheque clearing in 2018

ACCREDITATION TO FSC & PEFC

The Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. The FSC mark and that of the Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) provide a means of assuring customers that the documents we produce are manufactured from paper that can be traced to wood, from sustainably managed forests. A sustainably managed forest is a forest where trees are grown and replaced, in the same way that crops are farmed.

On the 5th November 2008, S&O successfully achieved accreditation to both FSC & PEFC and can make this claim on a variety of products. Well done to all who put in so much work before and during the two audits and made it possible to achieve this important goal.

Why is it important to use sustainably managed wood product?

- Forests cover approximately 30% of the earth's land surface
- Forests are a major carbon reservoir and sink that regulate the global climate
- Forests are home to 80% of the world's remaining terrestrial biodiversity
- Forests have effectively disappeared in 25 countries and another 29 countries have lost an amazing 90% of theirs
- Deforestation continues with the alarming loss of some 13 million hectares (130,000km²) a year

Growing trees absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere at a rate of 1 tonne for every m³ of growth and convert it into carbohydrates through photosynthesis, while releasing the oxygen we breathe.

Verifying that timber products are sustainable is no simple matter. There are many stages in the life cycle before the finished document is produced, and each stage must be verified and accredited to ensure the legitimacy of the FSC/PEFC Chain of Custody.

Forest > Saw mill > Pulp factory > Paper mill > Printing company

At each stage it must be assured that the product is not mixed with wood, pulp or paper from non verified sources. Verifying the complete chain of custody can add significant costs to the end product, but what price can be put on the protection of our environment?



INTERNATIONALLY CERTIFIED AS SECURITY PRINTER

In August 2009, S&O was accredited with the prestigious and elite international certificate for security printers. S&O joins just a handful of companies around the world who have achieved the certification.

S&O was audited at the end of July by SQS, a Swiss auditing company, for accreditation to CWA 14641:2006 Security Management System for Security Printing. This is a dedicated standard specifically for security printers, which looks at the physical security and security print solutions at the company's premises, as well as the security features that they incorporate in the products they produce.

The standard provides confirmation to customers that S&O is an accredited security printer with a management system and security procedures which are suitable for a company active in the design and use of security features and the production of security printed documents, such as cheques, bearer bonds, identity cards, driving licenses, travel tickets, official documents and certificates.

Nick Smith, S&O's Director, said: Following the detailed two day audit we are delighted to have received this certification. The security of all areas of our business were checked and verified to be of the very highest standards. Working alongside our existing quality certifications this provides excellent evidence to our customers that we are the right company to be working with. It really sets us apart and gives us a further lead in the national and international markets that we work in.



Drewsen to supply S&O with CBS1 paper to FSC/PEFC certification

S&O uses over 300 tonnes of CBS1 paper a year alone, and has signed a new 12-month contract with Drewsen to supply all of its CBS1 paper to FSC and PEFC standards. This will enable the company to offer the required 'Chain of Custody' claim to interested customers and clients. Other paper merchants such as Robert Horne, Reel Paper & Southern Paper have also been identified as key suppliers of certified product, increasing and further proving S&O's commitment to the environment.

S&O POUNDS THE STREETS FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK

This March, Eastbourne-based security and commercial printer S&O proudly presented a cheque for over £700 to Cancer Research UK following the company's team effort in the Eastbourne Half Marathon.

Ryan Bromley, Area Volunteer Manager from Cancer Research UK, commented: "On behalf of Cancer Research UK, I would like to say a big thank you to Smith & Ouzman for their recent fundraising efforts. Thousands of people are alive in Britain today thanks to progress made in cancer research, however our funds are raised almost entirely through public donations, so we rely overwhelmingly on the support of local businesses like Smith & Ouzman. The money that they have raised will help fund future research into new ways of beating cancer."



Team Smith & Ouzman (minus one).



Phil Ouzman, Managing Director, of Smith & Ouzman presents cheque to Ryan Bromley of Cancer Research UK.

Seven staff and family members made up S&O's team of enthusiastic runners, including Managing Director Phil Ouzman. Reflecting on the day's event, Phil commented: "With perfect weather conditions, all was looking good, but our team's performance was slightly hindered by several members carrying injuries - one member hot footing from a week's over indulgence in Austria and another deciding to take up the challenge on the day with no previous training."

Despite these few minor set backs, team S&O put in an impressive performance with finishing times for the 13 mile course ranging from a speedy 1 hour 48 minutes to 2 hours 26 minutes.

S&O would like to thank everyone kind enough to sponsor the team and all those who lined the course to show their support and encouragement on the day.

S&O STAFF NEWS

Welcome to

Procurement Officer, Paul Leonard who joined S&O in June 2008.



Nicki Jeffrey, Business Development Manager and Laurretta Burgess, Accounts Assistant who started their posts in September 2008.



Our new Class I Finisher's Tracy Brace and Robin Pellett who joined the team in December 2008 and May this year.



Tanya Langridge, new Client Account Manager who started in January and Alex Stannard who joined our IT department as a Trainee Programmer in April.



Retirements

Neil Philipson who retired in May after 38 years service.

Service Recognition

Congratulations to Steve Neville who joined the 25 Year Club in September this year after completing 25 years service.

Bereavement

Jean Faulkner S&O's Accounts Supervisor passed away in September 2008 after many months battling a cancerous tumour - she is very much missed.

New Arrivals

S&O welcomes three new arrivals. Joshua born on 21st December 2008 weighing 8lb 12oz to Jon Young in the Machine room and partner Hannah McMullan, Brennan William born on 23rd September 2008 weighing 5lb 15oz to Jenny Filsell in HR and Savana Marie born on 15th November 2009 weighing 6lb 11oz to Warren and Marie Sanders.

