

Watts Current

M_eK_o Ltd MeKo Electrical Services

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Exciting Times for MeKo!

They certainly are exciting times here at MeKo as we have started 2019 with quite a bang!

Firstly, of course, you are reading the inaugural edition of our newsletter, **Watts Current**. Welcome!

Hopefully you will find it interesting and informative with articles about work we have done for local firms and general industry news. Do let us know what you think and if there are topics you would like us to cover in future editions.

Our second piece of news is our fantastic new website. We are really pleased with it and think it reflects our commitment to the industry as a whole as well as to our local community. Once again, we welcome all feedback.





Business Grants for LED Lighting!

I was pleased to discover that there are now business grants available for companies to fund the cost of purchasing and installing LED lighting.

LED lights are recognised as being able to significantly reduce energy use and its associated costs. It is estimated that 20% of all energy consumption in the UK is the responsibility of lighting with this cost rising to 40% for some businesses.

Costs of LED lighting have dropped dramatically in recent years and they are estimated to use 80% less energy than traditional light bulbs.

So exactly what funding is available?

ECA Scheme

ECA is Enhanced Capital Allowance. It is a government initiative aimed at encouraging businesses to move towards a greener future. It does this by offering incentives to invest in energy saving plant and machinery, such as LED lighting, that may otherwise be too expensive for a business to install.

First year allowances let a business set 100% of the assets against taxable profits.

The ECA has an Enhanced Technology List (ETL) which highlights products with 'super green credentials'.

Further details of the scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enhanced-capital-allowance-scheme-for-energy-saving-technologies>

The Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust describes itself as 'an independent, expert partner of leading organisations around the world, helping them contribute to and benefit from a more sustainable future through carbon reduction, resource efficiency strategies and commercialising low carbon technologies.'

The Trust offers grants of up to £5,000 for small and medium sized UK businesses to purchase and install energy efficient equipment such as LED lighting.

You can find out more at their website here:

<https://www.carbontrust.com/home/>



If you are in the Gloucestershire area and want to talk about installing new LED lighting then do give me a call on 01453 764531 or 07970 976365.

Greener living

New LED Lights for Perry, Bishop & Chambers

It was great to be asked to install new LED lighting at the Stroud and Nailsworth offices of leading Estate Agents Perry, Bishop & Chambers recently.

It was important for the client to maintain the traditional look and feel of the offices while incorporating the modernity of the new lights.

We also completed the data install to both premises from the comma cabinets to the patch panels and the cabling to the final points in the offices.

We are currently working to rewire at their Farrington office in Oxfordshire. The challenge there is to carry out the work causing minimum disruption while the office is open and functioning normally. It is a challenge the team seem to be meeting admirably.

As you can see, in the Stroud and Nailsworth offices we have helped to shed new light on the properties available!



Electric Car Chargers Installed at Festival House Offices

You may be aware of the prestige office space available at Festival House in Cheltenham.

The building has been extended and refurbished to offer first class office accommodation, including meeting room facilities and an impressive reception area. Suites from 1,000 sq. ft. are available on terms designed to meet the needs of the modern office user.

Festival House now also meets the needs of environmentally friendly companies after we

recently installed some electric car chargers for them.

We installed two Rolec Securi Charge: EV 7.2kW 32amp type 2 sockets in their car park specifically for a client occupying offices in their building.

We have recently completed a City & Guilds course (2191-01) allowing us to apply to become Rolec approved installers and have had this accepted. We are also registering with the Office for Low Emission Vehicles allowing us to install EV charging points at domestic premises on a government scheme.

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*All prices subject to Rolec & OLEV Ts & Cs **Tethered lead version available from £279*

Greener living

Demand for Electric Car Charging Points Far Exceeds Supply

It is all very well encouraging people to move to greener, more energy efficient electric vehicles but they need to be able to charge them regularly and efficiently and that currently does not seem to be the case in the UK.

A report carried out by Emu Analytics predicts there will be one million electric vehicles on Britain's roads by 2020. There are currently just 16,500 electric charging points around the country and the report estimates a further 83,500 will be required to match demand.

Emu Analytics estimate that an electric vehicle's battery range is between 100 and 200 miles so the need for charging points is clear. It had been predicted that supermarkets would become the preferred charging points for drivers but to date only 3% of supermarkets operate them. Asda has the best coverage with points available at 19% of their stores. Tesco, however, have them at just 0.4% at theirs.

There is no doubt that electric vehicles represent the future. Between 2014 and 2017, there was a 600% increase in electric car sales in the UK. There was a 20% rise between 2016 and 2017 alone.

Obviously, the easiest way of charging your electrical vehicle is at home.



We have been installing charging points for some time now so if you are considering them installed at your home give us a call on 01453 764531 to discuss your options.

What are PIR Controls?

I think that acronyms are the curse of the 21st century but they certainly have their uses. For instance, who wants to say passive infra-red when you can say PIR instead?

But what actually are PIR controls?

Simply put, PIR switches provide automatic control of a variety of systems of heating, lighting, air conditioning or ventilation. These PIR switches will automatically detect movement and turn on the specified system when an area, such as a room, is occupied and then turn it off again when it is vacated after a specified duration.

Not only does this provide automatic control but it also saves energy thus saving you money by reducing energy bills.

There are numerous places where these systems can be used. In multiple occupancy buildings, such as apartment blocks or offices, they can control the lighting to common areas including corridors, stairways and lift lobbies. In commercial buildings they can control the flow and temperature of air conditioning and cooling or heating systems.

They can also be used to activate various alarm systems and so have numerous applications for security purposes.

At a domestic level, they can be used in conjunction with burglar alarm systems and to control external or garden lighting.

If you feel you would like to learn more or discuss how PIR controls could help your business and you are in the Gloucestershire area, please do give me a call on 01453 764531 or 07970 976365.

Safety in the bathroom

Water carries electricity efficiently. But, if the two mix, the result can be deadly. So, the bathroom is possibly the most dangerous room in the house when it comes to electrical safety. The consequences of an electric shock are far more severe in a bathroom or shower room as wet skin reduces the body's resistance.

There are special requirements for electrical installations in bathrooms as most electrical work must comply with Part P of the Building Regulations.

We strongly recommend that you use an electrician registered with one of the government-approved schemes to carry out any electrical installation work that you need. Find out more by visiting our Find an Electrician page.

Our advice will help you to stay safe.

Sockets

Sockets are not allowed in bathrooms or shower rooms (apart from shaver-supply units) unless they can be fitted at least three metres from the bath or shower.

Electrical shaver points must be a safe distance (in meters) from the bath or shower to avoid splashes

Lights

Enclosed ceiling lights are preferable to the ones that hang down.

All light fittings, that are not enclosed, should be out of reach of someone using, or still wet from using, the bath or shower.

Everyday light switches are a danger because of dampness and wet hands. A ceiling-mounted pull-cord switch is the safest option.

Heaters and towel rails

Central heating is the safest way to keep a bathroom warm. But if you do have an electric heater, it must be fixed at a safe distance from the bath or shower.

Electric and gas water heaters in a bathroom must be fixed and permanently wired, unless they are powered by a socket fitted three metres from a bath or shower.

A pull-cord or switch outside the bathroom is the ideal way to control electric heaters.

Showers

An electric shower must be supplied on its own circuit directly from your fusebox.

Portable electrical appliances

Never bring mains-powered portable appliances such as hairdryers, heaters or radios into a bathroom. You could be severely injured or killed!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Zac Neve

Zac has recently completed his year's apprenticeship with us so we asked him a few questions about how he has found the job:



What was the biggest challenge?

Not thinking I had it in me, I did struggle for a while and thought I might choose a different route. However, I am glad I stuck with it.

What went well?

Learning skills which I can put in to practice, both practical and theoretical. At college I realised I know more than I thought I did and this has boosted my confidence.

What lessons do you think you have learned?

How different working life is compared to school life, as I came from secondary school straight into this apprenticeship. I've also realised the importance of

simple things like time keeping and communication between work colleagues.

What have you enjoyed?

Learning skills and being able to put them into action in the work place, feeling proud leaving jobs knowing I've done my best and achieved something. Knowing that I am capable of doing the work needed.

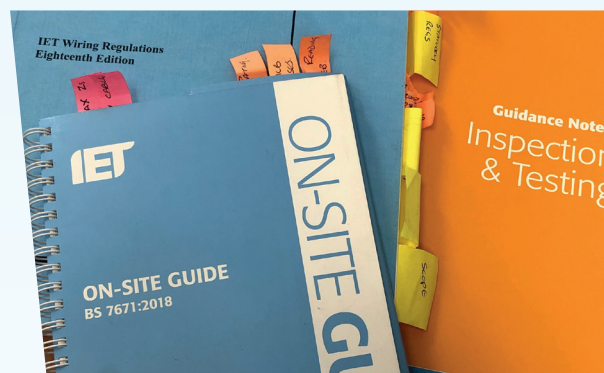
What did you not enjoy?

Long journeys to certain jobs which make some days so much longer.

Is it what you expected?


Yes and no. Doing work experience beforehand meant I kind of had an idea of what I was getting into. However I didn't realise how different the work would be compared to just domestic electrical works as when you get into commercial and industrial electrical systems it's a completely different way of working.

It has been a pleasure having Zac work for us over the last twelve months and we are sure he has a successful future in front of him.



Back to School

As of 1st of January 2019 the new **18th edition electrical regulations (BS7671)** came in to effect. So Marc and the team will be going back to school to learn the new updates with in the regulations in detail completing the City & Guilds 2381-18 update course.

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