



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Operated several **Komori Litho presses** producing a wide range of printed materials on 2 and 4 colour litho presses.

Established the **pre-press department** quickly developing the skills to convert artwork to press-ready final film resulting in huge productivity gains.

Responsible for **guiding investment in hardware, software and personnel** as the print industry underwent profound change due to the remorseless advance of digital technologies.

Utilised software skills to provide **design solutions** for print clients: **Quark, InDesign, Freehand, Illustrator and Photoshop**.

Mastered **Agfa's Apogee Pre-Press workflow** for driving output for both litho and digital work, paramount for the successful operation of the modern pre-press department.

Operated the **Konica Minolta digital press** which included an online **saddle-stitch finishing unit**, producing both standard and **variable data** printed materials.

Developed the skill-set required for producing **bespoke** web pages: **HTML, CSS, JS, PHP, MYSQL**.

PROFILE

Self-motivated and largely self-taught individual who made a decisive contribution to the success and development of the - part - family printing business. Over 35 years I had to master a range of disciplines in responding to the challenges and opportunities presented to an industry fast pivoting towards an entirely digital workflow.

But digital has been a double-edged sword for the print industry as more content is consumed online, the last couple of years alone providing ample evidence of our dependence on online technologies. It was this direction of travel that encouraged me to double-down on my web skills, as detailed below.

CAREER TO DATE

NORTH WOLDS PRINTERS LTD.

1979 - 2014

FULL-TIME LITHO PRESS OPERATOR

I progressed from small offset single colour presses to producing process colour jobs on Komori Sprint(2/4) and Lithrone(4/5) colour presses. For the vast majority of this period, however, I operated a succession of Komori Sprint 2-colour presses and it was on these machines that I truly honed my craft, exposed as I was to a huge variety of work on a diverse range of materials.

The demands of producing accurate four colour work on a two-colour press with purely manual controls can only be underestimated. Within a few short years I was in a position to provide press tuition to new recruits.

REPRO OPERATOR | PART-TIME LITHO PRESS OPERATOR

After several years on the presses I was keen to establish a repro department and in due course a darkroom and studio were purposely built and I cut my teeth handling simpler single/spot/halftone work before gaining the confidence to prepare the firm's process colour work.

Strategic partnerships were formed with established repro houses for high-end scanning and proofing services. This was an inherently more client-facing role, I was able to get away from the shop floor as I did my rounds visiting graphic designers and repro houses. As the company's order book grew the department was able to offer an apprenticeship to a former work experience student, who quickly excelled when the digital age dawned.

PRE-PRESS MANAGER | MAC OPERATOR | GRAPHIC DESIGN

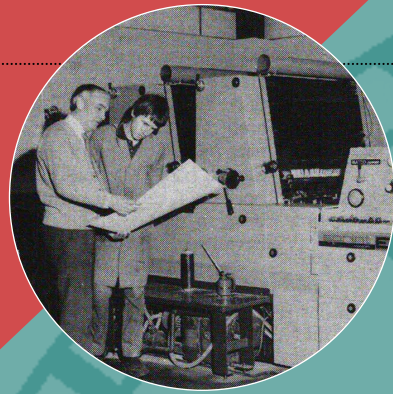
At Ipex in 1993 the company made its first investment in digital kit. The software we were obligated to learn initially comprised QuarkXpress 3.1, Freehand 3.1 and Photoshop 2.5. This holy trinity of software was beginning to reach maturity, particularly on the Apple Mac platform and rapid turnaround of printed material would soon be a reality. But the brave new world of digital output was fraught with peril and the role of prepress was crucial in ensuring that equally rapid reprints would not eventuate.

PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR | GRAPHIC DESIGN | CTP OPERATOR

Just before the end of the millennium the firm finally invested in a imagesetter. This paid dividends when we were able to secure a contract to provide a total print solution for a major York based insurance company. The ranks of the repro department swelled and now included two ex-press operators, so whether sending files direct to the imagesetter or occasionally sending pdf files via iSDN for external output, clients could be assured that their files had been subjected to a professional degree of scrutiny.

The general trend towards a pdf workflow culminated in the investment of a computer-to-plate system powered by Agfa's Apogee Pre-Press workflow. For the first time proofs were now produced from the actual ripped data, the department had finally come of age.

Along with the core responsibilities of pre-flighting the department had also, since the advent of digital, been able to provide decent graphic design services across a range of printed products, and when more than one client began expressing an interest for an online presence I soon realised there was whole new order of technologies to explore.



PRINT DESIGN

I "designed" a variety of items whilst at North Wolds. These best **demonstrate a degree of familiarity** with the Adobe Creative Suite, click to view.



WEB DESIGN

Listed below chronologically in the order I first worked on them. The **BNTHERMIC** site hasn't changed since the summer of 2006.

POLOAFRICA and those **ALPACAS** have gone a few rounds of re-factoring, but **modernizr.js** and **underscore.js** are the only dependencies, and some effort has been made at graceful degradation/progressive enhancement. **Unlike a broken elevator a broken escalator degrades gracefully to a flight of steps...**



09
14

PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR | CTP/ DIGITAL PRESS OPERATOR

A change of premises proved the ideal time to invest in a digital press. It was largely my responsibility to research the options available, but we were unanimous in deciding, within the constraints of the budget, that the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO c6501 gave the most litho-like results, very much a consideration.

I was also determined to exploit the very non-litho-like advantage of the digital press, and invest in a variable data solution. KM offered the entry-level Darwin plug-in for InDesign. It had its limitations, as did digital print in general, but we were now able to offer our clients an exciting new opportunity and the demand was there from the start.

It was also in this period that I made an attempt to upgrade the company website. An upload facility was the first priority. This side-project was my first real venture into programming proper as it soon became apparent that a database-driven website was in order. I had to become familiar with concepts such as database normalisation as I began to grapple with the minute particulars of mysql and php, and although I wouldn't have known it at the time the knowledge of the SQL language would soon prove to be of real practical benefit when it came to preparing the Excel spreadsheets required for our variable data solution.

REFACTORING

Around 2012 retirement beckoned for one of the original directors and in due course it was decided to initiate the process of selling the business, which was completed in July 2014. I was on holiday at the time and as I suspected, was soon to have a lot more time on my hands.

Several house moves followed as my partner pursued new opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry, one house became our home and I was fortunate to have the leisure to oversee some significant home improvements and decorate the place from top to toe. It wasn't just the dalmatian that benefited from this furlough.

In the meantime I had a few print projects from ex-clients, volunteering my services on occasion but I was primarily interested in upgrading my web skills in particular gaining greater literacy with javascript.

Discovering object-oriented design patterns was a revelation but true eloquence may lay more on the functional side of JS. The only ex-project that would resemble a modern app however was the old upload site, written entirely in php. Significantly refactored it is in a much better state to port over to a JS framework as a further learning exercise.

However much fun that may be it can wait a while. I can hardly afford to be a "gentleman coder" for the rest of my days, it is a new year and high time I did something about my work-life balance. I possess a clean driving licence, I shouldn't be let anywhere near a HGV.

INTERESTS

I met my partner on a walking holiday, still our favourite kind of trip. Mostly on the continent. The dog is happier on home turf however and we all made it to the Thames Flood Barrier back in May finally completing the 184 mile journey from the source. It has only taken 5 years, or 35 depending on your perspective. Happiness is a chilled white and a plate of oysters within co-ee of an ocean, or quite frankly, the Thames.

I enjoy cooking from scratch most evenings and, though I hesitate to call it a hobby, have long enjoyed stirring or shaking but inevitably imbibing a properly constructed cocktail. My younger self would have been astounded at the ready availability of exotic booze. No longer do I need to contact New York for options on orange bitters or blindly roam the streets of London in a vain attempt to secure a bottle of creme-de-menthe blanc.

EDUCATION

I left school with O-Levels in Maths, English, History and Geography. About a decade or so later I obtained an A-level in English Literature after attending adult education for a term or two. Just after leaving North Wolds I successfully completed an 'Intermediate Level Website Development programme' at the same location.