

# insideout

the journal of the Higgins Group

issue 5



# the sky's

## Planning for the future



Steve Leakey



Paul Cooke



Keith Briggs



Phil Burrows



Glen Roberts

As part of the future succession planning, and to establish strong foundations for the Group going forward, there have been some significant changes in Higgins Construction management.

We are pleased to announce that Steve Leakey will take the role of Managing Director Designate. Over the next 15 months Steve will be working alongside Benny King to ensure a smooth transition into this pivotal role.

To further strengthen the team Keith Briggs has been promoted to

Director of Pre-Construction and Paul Cooke's role has been expanded to include responsibility for QA and sustainability. Phil Burrows has transferred from Higgins Homes to Higgins Construction as a Construction Director and brings with him a greater understanding of the needs of private sale developments and Glen Roberts has been promoted to Construction Director Designate.

We wish the aforementioned continued success in their new positions.

## Recognition for hard work



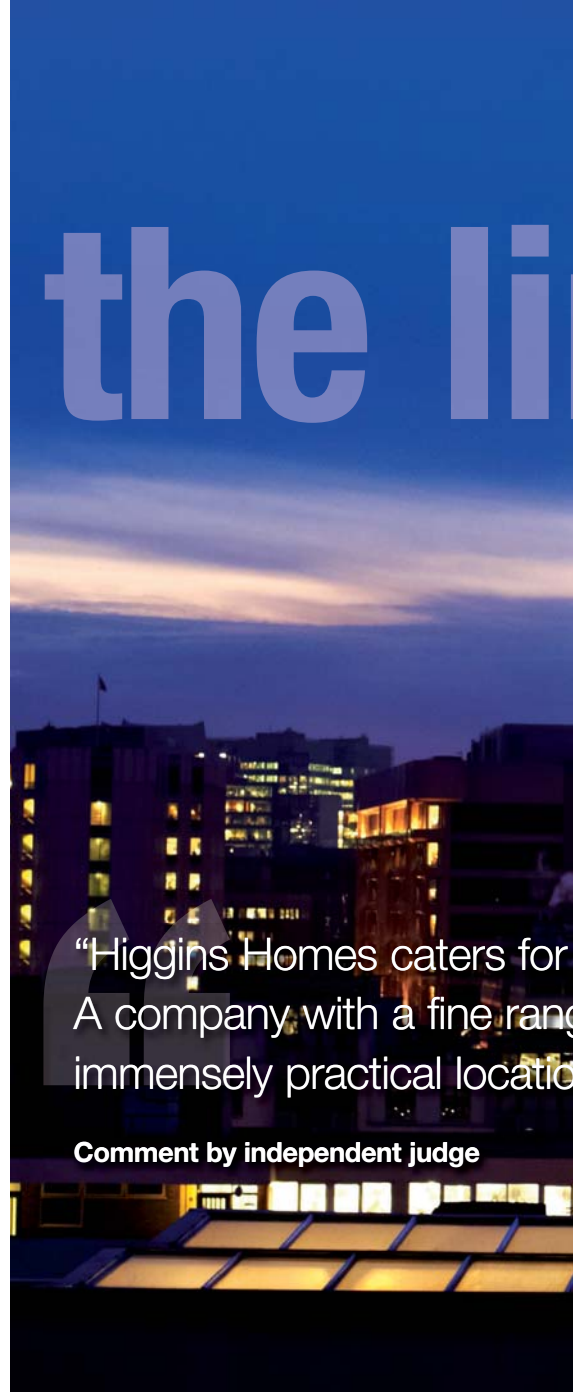
Sarah Byrne

We would like to send our congratulations to Sarah Byrne on her success at being shortlisted for RLO of the Year South East.

Resident liaison officers play a key role in the lives of many residents. From keeping them informed of the likely effects and progress of major refurbishment schemes to helping them to bring about improvements to the communities in which they live, Resident Liaison Officers often become far more than the approachable face of the company. RLO's can at once be a source of information and reassurance, the first port of call when something goes wrong, or a friend to share a cup of tea with. It is therefore a huge compliment to have these qualities and the hard work that is undertaken recognised at a national level.

Well done Sarah.

# the li



"Higgins Homes caters for  
A company with a fine rang  
immensely practical locatio

Comment by independent judge

## National rec



Jeremy Marcus re  
from come



# mit...

first time buyers, families, investors and retirees.  
range of product, delivered with flair and substance in  
ons. It prides itself on its after sales and attention to detail”

View from the roof terrace of the award winning VoguE1

## Recognition for high standards...

receiving the award  
from Dian Dara O'Briain



Despite the extremely challenging climate that we find ourselves in at the present time, the staff at Higgins Group continuously strives to excel in all they do. We are therefore extremely proud that these efforts have been recognised at a national level.

For the first time in the company's history Higgins Homes won two of the sought-after prizes at the most prestigious awards ceremony for the housing building industry, the 'What House Awards'. Bronze Awards were given in the 'Best Medium Housebuilder' and 'Best Partnership Development' categories.

Following on with this winning formula, Higgins Homes also won a staggering five prestigious awards at the 'Daily Mail UK Property Awards'.

In the Herfordshire category, 'Ice' was given a four star rating for the best apartment and 'New River Mews' development was awarded the highest five star rating. 'The Orchard' won best development for the second consecutive year in the West Sussex category. National awards were given for property marketing at VoguE1 and the best developer website.

The dedication and commitment of all the staff who have been involved in these projects is outstanding and it is rewarding to see the teams working together to achieve the same goal. The work ethos that is established throughout the company provides a truly confident approach to the future development and partnership working of the organisation.

**“These are extremely coveted awards in the house building industry and to win two is fantastic. The Orchard, built by Higgins Construction, is our joint venture partnership with Moat Housing Group and is also our first venture into West Sussex. The award in the ‘Best Medium Housebuilder’ category is an incredible achievement and one which the whole company can be proud of”**

Said Jeremy Marcus, Sales and Marketing Director, Higgins Homes

# If it's **stylish, London living** that you are looking for...

**Higgins Homes' VoguE1 in Whitechapel is a sleek, iconic structure fashioned from the finest materials. Inhabiting a vibrant corner of London's historic garment district, VoguE1 makes a bold design statement in burnished steel with brick, wood and glass creating a strong stylish overall look.**

The collection of one and two bedroom apartments and two and three bedroom duplex penthouses are perfect for homeowners with a passion for London living.

Higgins Homes prides itself on delivering fashionable homes that suit the perfect location and lifestyle - VoguE1 meets these demands. With its classic good taste and cutting edge style VoguE1 also offers residents the opportunity to enmesh themselves within the culture, everyday life and nightlife of London.

Inside every property the craftsmanship, finish and the fittings feel as good as they look - stainless steel, stone composite and sleek glass in the kitchens, and satin chrome and porcelain in the bathrooms and en-suites. Simple, sleek lines are stunningly streamlined throughout and natural light is welcomed in - often over private balconies or terraces.

The building contains 58 one and



two bedroom apartments and two and three bedroom duplex penthouses spread across seven floors. The high specification apartments are all open-plan and all enjoy access to a stunning communal roof terrace with many having views over central London and several penthouse apartments have incredible views across the Square Mile and the iconic 'Gherkin' building.

**The remaining 2 bed apartments are priced from £329,995 with the last two penthouse apartments from £550,000.**

For further information contact the marketing suite, open Thursday to Monday between 10am & 5pm on 020 8521 7885 or visit [www.higginshomes.co.uk](http://www.higginshomes.co.uk)

## **VoguE1 = ideal apartment**

**Amidst the current economic turmoil, it is easy to forget that buying property involves emotion and passion and a property is a home, not just an investment. This was certainly the case for Julian Nelberg when he started searching for a place to live. Julian wanted to find his dream home, not just a great investment or an amazing deal, and he did.**

**Julian, 33, a first time buyer, who works for PricewaterhouseCoopers, in London, found that VoguE1 was his ideal apartment.**

"I had wanted to buy a property for a while, but I hadn't found anywhere which really caught my eye. Then I saw the penthouses at VoguE1 and I knew I had to have one. The view from my balcony is incredible, I can



**...it is everything I ever wanted...**

almost see the entire City, and the design of the apartment is very modern and sleek. Higgins Homes has used high quality materials throughout, so it looks and feels like a real city bachelor pad.

"I couldn't believe I lived here during the first couple of weeks because it is everything I ever wanted. I had been

saving for some time and so was able to put down a large deposit for the flat, but for me it was worth every penny. I wanted to live somewhere trendy in a property that I loved, rather than a more affordable option. Everyone who has come to visit me thinks the place is amazing and that I have made the best decision."

**Julian comments.**





‘Vision, sensitivity and meticulous attention to detail are the cornerstones of the Higgins Homes corporate ethos.’

# Higgins Homes sees **light at the end of the tunnel**

Higgins Homes, has had a very positive start to 2009. In the first twelve weeks of the year, the company saw a surge in the number of applicant registrations, viewings and sales, recording substantially higher figures than they had for 2008.

"This increase in sales and interest levels is very heartening and is a great start to 2009. There's no denying that times are still tough, but, because of the economic turmoil of the past 12 months, there is a year's pent up demand for property, as people have been delaying buying. The government backed 'MyChoiceHomeBuy' scheme, which aims to help first time buyers onto the property ladder, also continues to be extremely attractive with buyers."

**Said Jeremy Marcus,  
Sales & Marketing Director,  
Higgins Homes**



"Feedback from our visitors is that they firmly believe that now is a good time to buy, as deals are so good and they are getting something now that a year ago they might not have been able to afford. Ultimately, Higgins Homes' dedication to building high quality, well designed properties in desirable locations is proving to be a formula for success in the current market."



Higgins Homes is currently marketing seven sites across Crawley, Colchester, Walthamstow, Whitechapel, Battersea and Stevenage. **For further information, please visit: [www.higginshomes.co.uk](http://www.higginshomes.co.uk)**

## Genesis and Higgins show their support for **'Riding for the Disabled'**

Higgins Construction is creating a development of Affordable and Shared Ownership flats for Genesis Housing, at Glyn St, Vauxhall.

The project is on the site of a former derelict factory; with a great outlook across the Park to the Vauxhall City Farm complex. The Vauxhall City Farm Charity supports the Riding for the Disabled initiative for handicapped and disabled youngsters.

Our scheme is due for occupation in summer 2010, and we look to continue our support to this fundamental local amenity.



"Part of the brief was to bond with the local community, so when the Site Team heard that there had been a break-in at the Farm they made contact with the manager, Linda Hinds, and offered to sponsor the purchase of riding equipment to the value of £1200, cost shared between Client and Contractor." Keith Taylor, Higgins Construction PLC.

### Helping businesses grow

**There are still opportunities for small businesses in today's climate – and the Bassett Business Units, Epping, managed by Higgins Group, are the ideal premises to keep costs to a minimum.**

Normally, annual costs and capital expenditure can be a major stumbling block to growth. These units provide a complete package that will shatter many illusions about the high costs involved in operating business premises, and have quick access to motorways (M11 and M25) making them the perfect location for thriving businesses.

These purpose-built units of 250 and 500 square feet are designed to give flexibility to businesses and offer all support facilities without long term leases.

**Many businesses are already taking advantage of these units and the support offered – for further information please contact Pip Ambrose, Sue Bowyer or Jan Broad on 01992 524111 / 618000**



**BASSETT  
BUSINESS UNITS**

# Delivering the same high standards - regardless of size

If you've got a building project where quality matters talk to us now...

With the team's diverse and unique skills, Higgins Construction is in the best position to deliver quality professional services to contracts of varying sizes.

Flexibility in our working practice ensures that smaller contracts benefit from the experience of the team and we remain well equipped to bring innovative solutions to large contracts. We are highly experienced in purpose built education and community facilities, creating partnerships with agencies to develop health and public sector buildings and delivering exceptional new build housing and refurbishment projects.



## The Quadrant £8m frame



Higgins Construction have recently completed the largest concrete frame they have ever constructed. This was a £8m frame for 'The Quadrant' development and was completed on time, to exceptional standards and to an extremely tight programme.

The basement car park is the footprint of the site, comprising of 276 mixed tenure units, including commercial units on the ground floor, 2 communal court yards and top floor Penthouse Suites with balconies.

## Still reporting good news...



St Johns School, Epping

Higgins Construction are delighted to report that there are many exciting and innovative opportunities for the organisation this year. With our expertise in specialised areas we are well equipped to work in partnership with a range of clients.

### Greenwich Peninsula:

We have been selected as the preferred contractor on this £30m scheme and look forward to working with the client in the second half of 2009.

### Largest bid submission:

We have submitted our largest ever bid to London Borough of Lambeth for a 980 unit development. This is a significant project and we look forward to being successful and progressing the work.

### Durham Road:

Higgins Construction have developed a new relationship with Local Space Housing Association and will be delivering a £1.2m new build scheme which will be our second project achieving code level 4.

### Ongoing commitment:

Community Trust Housing have made a commitment to continue working with Higgins on Stockwell Park. This has been achieved through our hard work, commitment and high standard of delivery.

St Johns School, Epping, has received approval from Essex County Council for the replacement of the existing school with a new construction. Higgins has been instructed to manage this process.

## Success at Swan



Two major projects with Swan Housing Group, which we are extremely proud to be involved in, are the Forest Gate PFI and Craylands regeneration. Both projects will have a huge positive impact on the residents involved.

# Higgins help with **real work experience**



Higgins Group is totally committed to maximising opportunities and promoting training for local people on every regeneration project that we undertake. We also aim to provide permanent positions beyond the initial schemes where possible.

Working with Presentation Social Investment Agency on 'The Quadrant' in south London, we are already offering a range of work experience positions to local people from disadvantaged backgrounds to work on this development.

These positions give practical experience and develop new skills - Alaa Galgal and JJ Gordon-Irving have been helped back into work with this programme.



"Help and support began from the word 'go' and has been invaluable: job opportunities, one-on-one tutoring in interview

techniques and body language - I could go on! The new skills I have learnt have given me immense confidence and self belief."

**Said Alaa Galgal**



"This programme has been a once in a lifetime opportunity, helping me to overcome job barriers by giving me the right

support I need. I have enjoyed learning professional interview techniques, body language tips and CV writing skills.

It has given me the confidence and encouragement to carry on with my job search. The new skills and

considerable experience I have gained with Higgins has given me back my self belief."

**Said JJ Gordon-Irving**



"On the job experience of a working construction project equips you with the skills needed to deal with the frequent but

unexpected issues that can occur on construction sites. This type of experience can't be taught in a classroom.

Working with Presentation is great, the programme provides us with high-calibre, dedicated candidates who show a willingness to learn new skills. This willingness is essential for developing a career within the construction industry".

**Said Peter Crane**

## A minute with...

**Samantha James,**  
Business Development Executive - Higgins Construction



**Career Highlight:** Becoming part of the Business Development Team.

**Worst Moment of Career:** 1636th paper cut whilst working in drawings and documents administration.

**Professional Inspiration:** People I work with

**Best advice:** Love like you have never been hurt and dance like no ones watching

**Favourite building:** Selfridges

**Favourite Book:** The Silver Sword - my childhood memory

**Favourite Poem:** If, Rudyard Kipling

**Favourite Restaurant:** TGI Fridays because in there it's always Friday

**One Luxury you will keep despite the credit crunch:** Gym Membership

**Which two people would be your ideal dinner guests?** Brad Pitt and Sir Alan Sugar



**On the cover**  
VoguE1  
See page 4

**Higgins Group**

One Langston Road, Loughton. IG10 3SD  
telephone: 020 8508 5555

**Higgins**