

THIS ISSUE - staff work together to achieve growth, Projects of the Year announced, saving hard for a dream home, Higgins Group support small businesses, good work at Greenfields, double award for Triangle, who loves reggae, reggae? and celebrations galore!

# link

April 09 issue 20

the monthly Higgins Group news update

## Succeeding in challenging times



**Thank you to everyone involved in making the recent staff presentations a success.**

In this challenging market it is imperative that we all work together and this was the key message that Benny King, Steve Leakey and Bryan Sabin, on behalf of Higgins Construction directors, presented in the

company market and business plan update.

The 'Building in Interesting Times' presentation reinforced that to continue to be at the top of our game we must all work harder at delighting our customers and help to identify new opportunities.

We thank you for all of your hard work to date and know that you are committed to the continued growth of the business.

## Projects of the Year

**Congratulations to everyone involved in the two projects that have been awarded 'Project of Year 2009'**

### North Cray

**Client: L&Q Housing Trust**

This project was the mixed development of 81 flats, including 17 for shared ownership, and 22 houses for rent together with associated infrastructure works on the site of a former Local Authority school, Sidcup, Kent.

The new homes were built for L&Q Housing Trust working in close partnership with Bexley Council, to deliver a range of new affordable homes.

### Barking and Dagenham Decent Homes, Pilot Project

**Client: London Borough of Barking and Dagenham**

This involved the refurbishment of 180 properties in Parsloes and Heathway areas and included rewiring, heating

North Cray



and roofing of the homes.

We are proud that this was the successful pilot scheme for the multi million pound refurbishment of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's housing stock to the Decent Homes Standard.

# Higgins

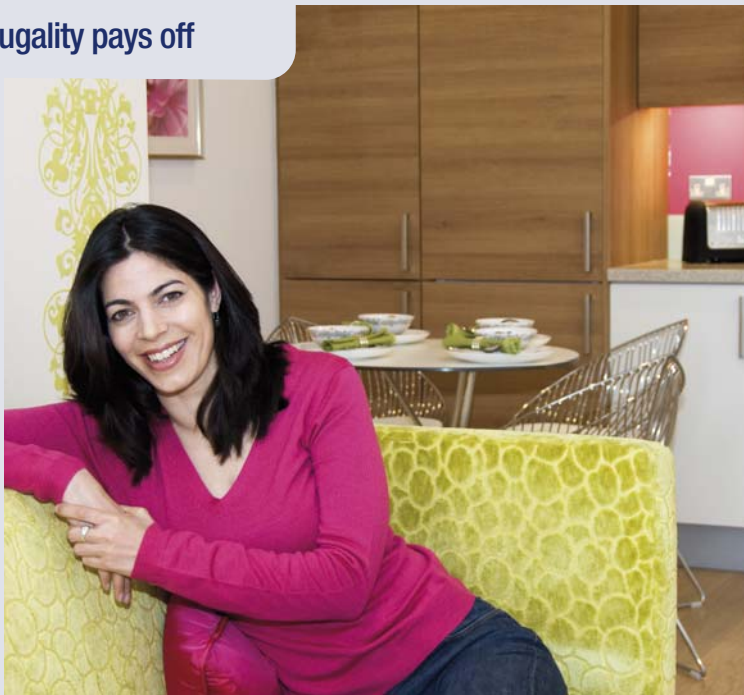
## Higgins Homes Frugality pays off

One of the winners of the downturn in the market is 34 year old Roya Ireland from Woodford, who works in interior design and marketing. She has had a frugal life for a number of years so that she could buy her first property. To achieve her goal of owning her own home Roya has been living with her parents and saving every penny for a very long time.

"I am cautious and responsible with my finances, and that is why I am not worried about what is happening in the housing market. I just see prices becoming more reasonable, and I'm very happy I can take advantage of that."

Having recently become the proud owner of a home at Uber, E17 she said: "I am absolutely thrilled that I have been able to buy such a lovely two bedroom flat. The design and style of the development is very contemporary and the service I have received has been extremely professional. The location is really vibrant and bustling, I really feel like I am in the centre of everything. The years of hard work have definitely paid off."

Prices start from **£169,950 for one bedroom apartments and from £199,950 for two bedroom, two bathroom apartments. For further information contact the Sales and Marketing Suite which is open Thursday – Monday on 020 8521 7885**



## Higgins Group Helping businesses grow...

Did you know that Higgins Group is giving opportunities for small businesses in today's climate?

Even in these difficult times there are small businesses still trading or starting up and Bassett Business Units, Epping, managed by Higgins Group, are the ideal premises to keep costs to a minimum.

By offering a complete package and the support of Higgins services and experience, without committing to long term leases, small business stand a better chance of growing as the normal pressure of annual costs and capital expenditure has been reduced.

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**



## Higgins Construction A first for Greenfields



We understand the difficulties that can be experienced for both residents and contractors when regeneration and improvement works are being carried out to homes – so many congratulations to the good work of the teams involved in the Greenfield Community Housing project.

The Braintree and Witham Times newspaper have received the following letter praising our work.

"We recently had a new kitchen fitted, including new tiling, a new front and back door, and a new gate fitted for security. The company that carried out most of the work for Greenfields is called Higgins, and all the staff were extremely polite and considerate.

The workmen cleared up after themselves and carried out the work to the letter. Our resident liaison officer kept us up-to-date with everything that was to be done the next day, and she was always only a phone call away" Mr and Mrs Watcham, Howbridge Road, Witham



## Double Award for 'The Triangle'

We did very well at the Civic Trust Awards recently when Plevna Triangle received a Civic Trust Award, and in addition to that, a Special Award for Inclusive Design. These awards honour restoration and new-build projects with cultural, social or economical benefit that also make "an outstanding contribution to the quality and appearance of the environment".

This was the first project of its type to be funded by the Government initiative 'New Deal for Communities'. The Triangle Centre is a new two storey building which provides accommodation for an existing 75 place nursery, children's play centre and out of school club.

Pictured left: Plevna Triangle, Haringey

## WELCOMES

We would like to welcome **Ephraim Maseya** who has joined Higgins Construction as a Pre-Construction Management Trainee (One Year Placement) and also **Lynda Thomas** who has taken the role of Resident Liaison Officer - we wish you every success in your careers.

## DID YOU KNOW...

**Bryan Sabin and Barry Oxford share a love of reggae!!**

Although strongly influenced by traditional African and Caribbean music, as well as by American rhythm and blues, reggae owes its direct origins to the progressive development of ska and rocksteady in 1960's Jamaica.

Bryan and Barry have both enjoyed the complete range of reggae over the years and would recommend new comers to first listen to some of the following; Jonny Osbourne



(Truth and Rights), Wailing Souls (Wild suspense), Bunny Wailer (Black Heart Man), Heptones (Party Time) and Gregory Isaacs (Mr. Isaacs)

Perhaps some of the more observant of you will spot them in the future dancing in the streets at the Notting Hill Carnival!!!

## EXAM SUCCESS

Congratulations go to **Bob Cockerton** who has successfully completed the Code for Sustainable Homes Competent Persons Exam and is now a qualified assessor - Well done.



## CONGRATULATIONS



In a bid to outdo a well known film, we have celebrated an amazing five milestone birthdays (all 21sts!!!) and three long service awards within Higgins Group all within a fortnight!!!

Birthday wishes are sent to **Paul Merrifield**(1), **Joan Marable**(2), **Pam Dorman**(3) who all celebrated their

60th birthday and **Brenda Wise**(4) and **Charles Green**(5) who welcomed their half a century!

**Debbie Wood**(6) and **Geoff Warner**(7) achieved 20 year milestones and **Andrew White**(8) celebrated a decade with Higgins. Many thanks to you all for your hard work and dedication.

## UPDATE ON THE GOSSIPING LEAGUE

If you wish to email your future tender gossips please send to the following email address **tendergossip@higginsconstruction.co.uk**

Department	Target	Tot	Department	Target	Tot
Pre Con Cost Mgmt	20	24	Surveying	40	9
Pre-Con Design Mgmt	70	63	Procurement	16	5
Pre-Con Development Mgmt	40	66	Site Mgmt	36	15
Contracts Mgmt	32	6	Support	4	4
			<b>Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>192</b>

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

Following on from the staff presentations please use the box below to let us know your thoughts/comments on the content of the day or if there is anything you would like to see included in your monthly Link.

### Feedback form

Name:.....Tel:.....

Comments .....

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Please return to Sam James or email [sam.james@higginsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:sam.james@higginsconstruction.co.uk)

We hope the information provided in this newsletter is clear and easily understandable, but should you require any further clarification, please contact: **020 8502 8398**

**If you would like a copy of Link in large print, Braille, on CD or in your language, please contact Sam James, [sam.james@higginsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:sam.james@higginsconstruction.co.uk)**