

THIS ISSUE - goodbye to two staff after dedicated service, three mountains in less than 24 hours, who has branded our site? views of iconic buildings, information systems a key part of the business growth, who has achieved a First?, welcomes, long services and who is the best gossipers?

link

July 09 issue 23

the monthly Higgins Group news update

Farewell after 14 years

The end of July sees the departure of Brian Mason, Construction Director, after 14 years of loyal, committed and dedicated service to Higgins Group.

Brian started his career working as an apprentice carpenter and continued to develop his career within the construction industry. At the age of 49, Brian joined Higgins Construction as a Contracts Manager - seeing Higgins as a respected, premiership organisation and one that he wanted to be a part of. Brian was appointed to the board of directors in January 2000.

Based at Hawke House, with a Group turnover of £40 million, Brian has seen many changes and the organisation grow into the success that it is today, becoming one of the market leaders in Social Housing. He has played key roles in many flagship regeneration programmes and has embraced new types of construction systems throughout his career.

Brian has great respect for the Chairman and Directors, past and present, and would like to thank them for giving him the opportunity to join the Higgins Group and progress and fulfill his career aspirations - his only



regret being that he didn't join earlier!

Looking forward he is hoping to make more use of his home on the seafront and possibly learn a new language, along with catching up with his gardening and fishing and hopefully getting an old motorbike up and running!

"I would like to say a huge thank you to the Executive Team at Higgins and all my colleagues for the fantastic opportunities, support and experiences I have had and the excellent memories that I now leave with" Brian Mason

Well - they did it!

Paul Lewellen and Mark Francis completed the Three Peaks Challenge in 23 hours 20 minutes - just 40 minutes to spare!



"Thanks to all those who sponsored us... Cancer Research UK will benefit by over £4000 as a result.

For those who wish to add to that figure... the website remains "live" for a few days."

Congratulations on such a challenging achievement!



To see photo's and donate please visit www.justgiving.com/paullewellen

Higgins

Higgins Construction Involving the community in development

Higgins Construction, in partnership with Aldwyck Housing Group and Freeform Arts Trust, recently ran a competition for final year students studying graphic design at Dunstable College to produce a hoarding for our London Road development.

They were asked to design artwork that would reflect the spirit and the theme of the new development. The winning artist, Joseph Hricovec, recently attended the unveiling of the artwork on the hoarding, entitled 'Let your Dunstable Grow'.

Many congratulations Joseph!

Approval granted

We are delighted that the planning application for St Johns School, Epping has now received approval.



Higgins Homes Room with a view

Battersea Power Station has become a London landmark, and properties with views over the disused power station are demanding premium prices.

Sandrine Marquett, a sales administrator from Paris, decided to purchase her apartment at Higgins Homes' development, Orion in Battersea, mainly because of the views of the iconic building.

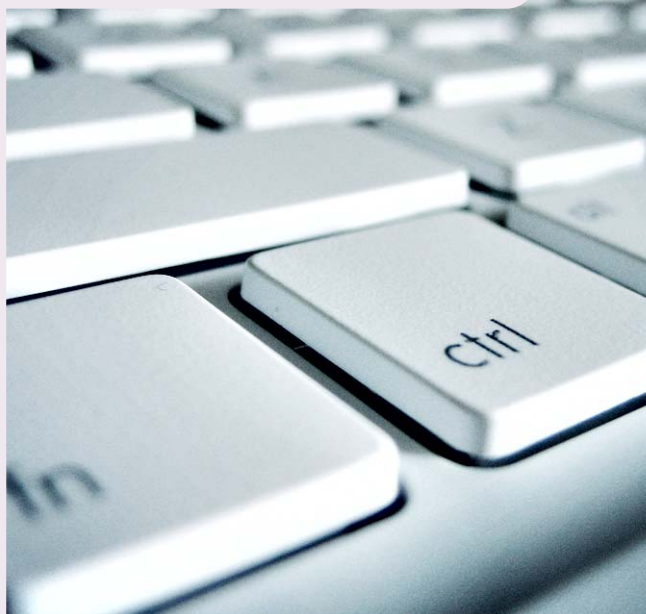
Sandrine, a 31 year old first time buyer, comments: "I have lived in London for six years and I absolutely love it here, but I wanted to buy something which would be an investment as well as somewhere I enjoyed living. I loved Orion as soon as I saw it because it is so spacious, well finished and most importantly because of its

views over Battersea Power Station. I think that having a view of such an important and distinctive landmark is incredible and it will add value to my property in the future.

"I believe that if you buy in a good location like this one, you are less affected by the property price rollercoaster. But it is also important that it is a fun and vibrant place to live and I enjoy going to the park as well as all the bars and cafes. My friends who have visited me can't believe what a gorgeous apartment I have and they think the view over the power station really epitomises London. I am so pleased I am finally on the property ladder and I think my property is a safe investment as well as a beautiful home."

Prices start from £235,000 for a 1 bed apartment and from £319,500 for a 2 bed apartment. Two show apartments and the marketing suite are open Thurs to Mon (closed Tues and Wed) between 10.30am and 4.30pm. For further information and brochure requests please telephone: **020 7223 5621**

Information Systems (IS) ...a critical part of the business



Until something goes wrong, you don't realise how much you rely on computer systems. You could be forgiven in thinking that the IS Department is waiting for your phone calls to fix your problem... wrong - that is only a small part of their jobs. Over the next few issues of link we will tell you about

the work they are involved in.

As a team IS recognise that IT systems are an important aspect to the success of Higgins and they work with the whole business on system projects to deliver value. IS delivers key applications and systems to teams - contributing to the business success.

Some key recent projects.

- New telephony system at Langston Road,
- Implementation of an Electronic Content/Document Management system (ECM),
- Increased use of the Cybercube financial system,
- Setting up a disaster recovery site for computer systems,

- Introduction of a new Social Housing system 'Hawke',
- Introduction of a business continuity plan,
- A new help call logging system to help us to help you more efficiently.

These are a few of our projects. We will tell you more about them and others in future issues of Link.

WELCOMES

We would like to welcome **Colin Chandler** who has recently joined Higgins Construction PLC as a Contracts Manager - we wish you all the best for your career.

LONG SERVICES

This month we have a 'hat trick' of employees celebrating 10 years committed and dedicated service to Higgins Construction. Congratulations and thanks are sent to **Paul Sims, Maureen Harragan** and **Keith Nutley**.



A MINUTE WITH... KEVIN WOOD

Career highlight?

Becoming a member of the Higgins Homes Procurement department.

Professional inspiration?

My Father

Development/project you would have liked to be involved with?

Construction of the Burj al Dubai, very tall!

Best advice?

Always keep your eye on the ball!

Favourite Building?

White Hart Lane, the home of proper football

Favourite Song/Album?

Prodigy - The Prodigy Experience

First Song/Album ever bought?

Something by Kylie I think, I was 16!

One luxury you will keep despite the credit crunch?

Walkers Worcestershire Sauce Crisps (the big eat size of course)

Favourite Restaurant?

The Palm Court in the Ritz, absolutely spiffing!

Which two people would be your ideal dinner guests?

Megan Fox and Andrew Flintoff

CONGRATULATIONS

Following many years of hard work and study **Steve Quinn** (7 years) and **Richard Cohen** (5 years) have completed their Quantity

Surveying BSc(hons). Steve was successful in achieving a First and Richard received a 2:1. Many congratulations are sent to them both on these fantastic results. Our congratulations are also sent to **Joe Waller**, following a years hard study, he has passed his MCP (Microsoft Certified Professional) exam. Joe's studies continue as he plans to take further exams in the coming year.



WE SAY GOODBYE TO JACKIE AS SHE JETS OFF INTO THE SUNSHINE

Jackie has worked for Higgins Group for the last 6 years, starting in Higgins City as a filing clerk, and at the end of this month we say farewell as she looks forward to her retirement.

Higgins Construction will all miss Jackie's cheerful personality and her smile... and also the cups of tea that she made to keep the team going!!!

Following her retirement Jackie is looking forward to spending time with her new husband and planning a move to Spain to start a well earned, more relaxed lifestyle!

"I would like to wish the Group and all the employees every success in the future and I would like to say what fantastic friends I have made, and will miss very much. There has always been a good atmosphere throughout the organisation with everyone pulling together and I hope this winning combination long continues. I would like to pass on my thanks to everyone who has supported me throughout my career" Jackie

We would like to send Jackie our sincere thanks and best wishes for all of her dedication and commitment - Happy Retirement

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	12
Pre-Con Design Mgmt	70	52	Procurement	16	2
Pre-Con Development Mgmt	40	46	Site Mgmt	36	5
Contracts Mgmt	32	12	Support	4	2
			Total	258	155

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