

THIS ISSUE - 2 projects nominated for acclaimed awards, hard work recognised, processes and sites get approval, who at 90 years old got a gift? what building is being restored to its original splendour? a treble celebration for long services, who is a proud parent? and 9 achieve a further qualification.

# link

August 09 issue 24

the monthly Higgins Group news update

## Award recognises innovation

Higgins Construction PLC has two projects shortlisted in the 'Most Sustainable Large Social Housing Project' category of The Sustainable Housing Awards 2009, organised by Inside Housing magazine.

Firstly, Vale Street Lambeth, a former council depot site now transformed into a cutting edge innovative development of 48 flats and 12 houses, achieving "Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4" and promoted as Lambeth Borough's key sustainability demonstration project.

The other development shortlisted is Granville Road, Kilburn, a new build of 103 flats built to Ecohomes Rating "Very Good" standard. Key factors included in this build were super insulated walls, solar tubes and the roof life concept, which generates amenity space at all levels of the building.

These are highly acclaimed awards that focus on the best "green" social housing projects constructed in



Granville Road, Kilburn

the UK, and the organisations responsible for them.

**Congratulations to everyone involved and we look forward to the announcement of the winners in November.**



2009  
SUSTAINABLE  
HOUSING  
AWARDS  
FINALIST

## Blooming marvellous

Further to the article in May's edition of Link highlighting the excellent work carried out by students to design and produce artwork to brighten up the hoarding of our Wantz Road, Maldon site. It is fantastic news that this has been recognised by Maldon District

Council and has won 'Best Schools Project' in the 'Maldon in Bloom' competition. The judges also commented that they were very impressed with all the hard work that had obviously gone into this project.

## Project management systems get a clean bill of health

BSI produces standards and information products that help businesses to implement and certify an effective management system. We are aware that these processes need to be continually updated and revisited to make sure we are delivering the most efficient service to support the needs of our growing business. BSI has recently undertaken our 6 monthly assessment, which they were

extremely happy with. Many thanks go to everyone involved in using and developing these processes and to those on site for maintaining safe, tidy sites.

# Higgins

## Higgins Construction

### 1000th celebrations at Brockley



Higgins Construction recently celebrated the completion of the 1000th property at Brockley. This £73 million PFI project involves the replacement of bathrooms, kitchens, windows, roofs, and electrical and mechanical units being carried out to homes to meet the availability standards.

The lucky 1000th resident, who was presented with a gift to mark this milestone, was a 90 year old gentleman who thought the whole process was fantastic.



**Completed Contract:** Granville Road  
**Client:** London Borough of Brent  
**Value:** £22m  
**Contract:** A development of 103 homes, in four blocks rising to 7 storeys, for rent and a new build community centre as part of the South Kilburn Regeneration Scheme.



## Higgins Homes

### Transforming Maidstone's former hospital



In the heart of Maidstone, one of Kent's most stunning Grade II listed Georgian landmarks, 'The Old Hospital', the former Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital is being carefully restored and converted into 17 one and two bedroom luxury apartments by Higgins Homes.

Set around the same landscaped courtyard, 57 new homes are also

being created on this central brownfield site. Reservations on the first release of one and two bedroom apartments were made by buyers days before the launch.

**"The Old Hospital is a very exciting venture for Higgins Homes. It is a beautiful property and we are enjoying restoring the building to its original splendour and giving the site a new lease of life with the addition of our contemporary new homes. They are fantastic value for money and have already sparked a lot of local interest, which is very promising."**

Commented Jeremy Marcus, Sales and Marketing Director of Higgins Homes

Prices start from £129,500 for a 1 bed apartment and from £169,500 for a 2 bed apartment. Show apartment open by appointment. To arrange a viewing or to request a brochure telephone 01438 746930



## Information Systems (IS)

Since the launch of the "IS Helpdesk" system just under a year ago it has become a business critical application to the department. The "IS Helpdesk" system is an application called "AmberCat" and keeps track of every support call logged.

The "IS Helpdesk" is staffed by Kelly Baker, Anton Scoltock, Joe Waller and managed by Mark Freeman. Each member of the department has visible access to "AmberCat" and it is regularly monitored by the "IS Helpdesk" team. Support calls can be logged via email, phone or in person.

A support call can be anything from

ECM related issues to IT site setups, PC troubleshooting and Blackberry's.

Mark is also involved with "behind the scenes" work such as network technical design and support. Martyn Waller and Neil Hamilton both have access to AmberCat and Neil is responsible for business applications whilst Martyn is responsible for the department and strategy.

### Facts!!

- An average of 425 helpdesk requests are received every month
- 90% of requests are resolved within 8 hours
- 70% of requests are fixed remotely

**To contact us call:** from site: 020 8498 6500  
 (Langston Road: Extension number 6500) or e-mail: IShelpdesk

## WELCOMES

We would like to welcome **Stephen Engelbretson** who recently joined us as a Senior Planner and **Jennifer Wood** who has taken up the role of Administrative Assistant in Pre-Construction. Having previously worked for us as an Apprentice Plumber **Nicola Thomas** has also started as a Management Trainee in Pre-Construction. Also, **Anton Scoltock** has joined the IS department as an Infrastructure Analyst and we wish them all good luck in their future careers.

## LONG SERVICE

Three members of staff are celebrating Long Services with Higgins this month. Our thanks and congratulations are sent to **Barry Cornell** - 35yrs, **Robert Vieceli** -15yrs and **Stephen Low** -10yrs for their commitment and hard work.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To raise money for The Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, **Duane Robinson** gave up alcohol for 6 months from 31st Dec - 30th June. He is pleased to say he is able to donate £1200 to this worthwhile cause.



## EXAM SUCCESS

9 admin staff have shown their commitment to further personal development by achieving an EDI Level 2 NVQ for IT users. With only a few hours tuition during work they dedicated their own time, outside of working hours, to complete this



qualification in 6 months. Many congratulations to you all.

## NEW ARRIVAL

**James Parish** is proud to announce the arrival of his gorgeous new daughter. Baby Lily Valentina Parish was born 27th June 2009 weighing 7lbs 9oz - our congratulations are sent to the new mum and dad, and we hope that Lily quickly learns how to sleep through the night for you!



## A MINUTE WITH... NICK WALTON

### Career highlight?

Friday mornings, due to the weekly fry up and knowing the weekend is to follow... on a serious note it would have to be working alongside a great bunch of people within my department and team.

### Professional inspiration?

Derek Higgins.

### Development/project you would have liked to have been involved with (not just Higgins)?

2012 London Olympics, due to the sheer scale and variety the project has to offer.

**Best advice?** "Winners never quit, quitters never win"... "If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you"

### Favourite film?

"Taken" and "The Bank Job" to name a couple.

### Favourite book?

Rise of the Mafia by Martin Short.

### Favourite building?

Burj Al Arab in Dubai.

### Favourite song/album?

Favourite Album is "Forever Faithless" by Faithless.

### Favourite restaurant?

Restobistro in Epping, love the big portions.

**One luxury you will keep despite the credit crunch?** My membership to the Casino.



## 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](mailto:tendergossip@higginsconstruction.co.uk)

Department	Target	Tot	Department	Target	Tot
Pre Con Cost Mgmt	20	19	Surveying	40	20
Pre-Con Design Mgmt	70	98	Procurement	16	11
Pre-Con Development Mgmt	40	13	Site Mgmt	36	0
			Support	4	6
Contracts Mgmt	32	22	<b>Total</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>189</b>

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)