

THIS ISSUE - wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas, ending on a high note, 5 sites to deliver quality homes, the role of IS in 2010, supporting St Clare Hospice and congratulations to two happy ladies.

link

December 09 issue 28

the monthly Higgins Group news update

Seasons Greetings

Welcome to the last 'Link' before you enjoy the Christmas festivities. The directors would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and extend their best wishes to you and your families for a prosperous New Year.

What a way to end 2009



'Building for Life' award - Granville New Homes

"The Building for Life partners would like to congratulate you for committing to good design at Granville New Homes."

Wayne Hemingway MBE, Chair of Building for Life

winning two awards!

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Charter House project which has been acknowledged in the Maldon District Conservation and Design Awards for the 'Top Design Award'. These awards promote the high standards of design and conservation of projects throughout the Maldon District.

"We are delighted to be recognised for the design of Charter House. Moat is keen to prove that affordable housing can be well designed and environmentally friendly and we are delighted to receive this award!" Moat's Head of Development Delivery, Jason Amos

We are also very pleased to give you the good news that Granville New Homes in Brent has been awarded a Building for Life award - a joint initiative between CABI and the Home Builders Federation, representing the national standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods.

The judging panel, including Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, were extremely impressed by Granville New Homes. The judges described it as a scheme with distinctive character and commended the integration of the children's centre into the development.

Higgins

Higgins Homes developing quality homes



Ice, Stevenage

If house buyers are looking at new flats, duplexes, penthouse apartments or houses - one thing they can be sure of is that Higgins Homes can help them find their ideal, high quality new home in one of many exciting new developments.

Higgins Homes has maintained a positive focus throughout the year.

When many housebuilders are suffering great losses or worse, we are pleased to announce that we achieved a fantastic £65 million of sales this year.

Sincere thanks are sent to our staff who have worked extremely hard throughout this difficult period and have been able to sell all of our completed

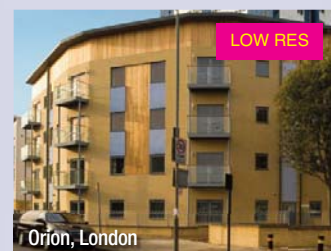
properties. The future also looks good as we continue to buy land, are looking at developing further joint ventures with Higgins Construction and our Housing Association partners, and are currently building on 5 further sites; Stevenage, Battersea, Maidstone, Hither Green and Coggeshall - so there will be more quality homes available to sell!



The Old Hospital, Maidstone



Imperial Apartments, Colchester



Orion, London

Higgins Construction Councillors view Exmouth Estate's progress



Councillors get first hand view of the Exmouth estate progress

Swan Housing Group recently arranged for Councillors from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to drop in for a tour of Exmouth estate to see for themselves the progress being made to refurbish the estate. Cllr Ullah, Member for Stepney and St Dunstan's and Cllr Francis, Cabinet Member for Housing at the London Borough of Tower Hamlets paid a visit to see the refurbishment works that we are carrying out on the estate. One of the priorities for the Councillors was to get a clear picture of the security improvements that are completed and to discuss plans to further improve the estate.



Councillor Ullah and Chair of Exmouth resident Board

The walkabout gave them an opportunity to inspect completed and ongoing works and to chat with local residents to hear their thoughts about the refurbishment works.

Cllr Ullah commented:

"I'm very happy with the progress on the security door system and the wider security benefit of the whole estate"

Completions

Thank you to all involved in the successful completion of the following projects.

Thomas Hardy House

Client: LB Enfield

Value: £0.7m

Monkwood Gardens

Client: Affinity Sutton

Value: £6.2m

Information Systems (IS) Heading into 2010



First of all we would like to thank everyone who entered the competition for the ipod shuffle. At the time of writing this article we haven't drawn the winner but it will be announced in the January issue of Link. I am sure they will enjoy the prize.

Also we would like to thank you for your input into the Information Systems "tips and tricks" questionnaire that we ran in ECM through November, we received over 130 ballots which is a great and helpful response. You can see where the most interest is by clicking on the Information Systems "tips and tricks" ICON in ECM, it will bring up a graph which will display the main areas of interest.

In the New Year we will start to introduce "tips and tricks" documents in ECM. To get you started here is one useful tip you may not have known; if you highlight an area of text in Word and then hold down shift and press F3 it will cycle through lower case, CAPITALS and Capital Letters at the beginning of the

word, the times I could have done with that. If you have any tips then let us know and we will share it with others, keep it clean and IS related please or we can't publish them...!

So what are IS going to be doing in 2010 I hear you ask??

Well the short answer is you are going to see more of us out in the business, but don't worry we aren't going to make you all IS experts, we are going to listen and work with you so we can all use our existing systems more effectively.

Towards the end of 2009 we looked at some of the business working methods, forms, procedures and processes that you use on a daily basis, we followed them from start to finish to ensure we have a good understanding of how they are being used at each stage. In 2010 we will build on this and work with you to improve and stream line time consuming tasks.

Have a great Christmas and New Year and we look forward to working with you in 2010.

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

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN FOLKS!

The traditional Christmas collection box is on Sue Daniels' desk ready for your money in place of sending Christmas cards to one another in the office in support of St Clare Hospice. Although you will be donating to this

extremely worthwhile cause it doesn't let you off of sending cards to your loved ones at home!

We're off to a good start - but lets see if we can raise more than we did last year!

WEDDINGS BELLS ARE RINGING...

Many congratulations are sent to Amanda Daly (nee Crouch) and Steve who were married last month in Disney, Florida. We hope that you had a fantastic day (with loads of sunshine) and have many more years of happiness to look forward to.



CONGRATULATIONS

On a romantic holiday in Cuba Sam Dobson asked Nicola Harris to be his wife - and we are delighted that they are now celebrating their engagement and looking forward to planning their wedding day.



A MINUTE WITH... NICK KOSTER, PROJECT MANAGER

Career highlight? packing away my tools, putting on a tie and picking up a pen.

Professional inspiration? my father, despite his recommendation not to go into the building industry.

Development/project? working on the film set of Lord of the Rings.

Best advice? measure twice cut once.

Favourite film? The Long Good Friday.

Favourite book? Richard Branson Autobiography, Losing My Virginity

Favourite building? Chartwell House in Kent, home to Sir Winston Churchill.

Favourite song/album? Jamie Cullum, Twenty Something. I saw him perform live and he was fantastic!



Favourite restaurant? a local Italian fish restaurant called The Coach House, the lobster there is great.

One luxury you would keep despite the credit crunch? it's a toss up between my wife and my set of golf clubs!

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	30	15	Surveying	40	15
Pre-Con Design Mgmt	74	55	Procurement	16	4
CSR	8	22	Site Mgmt	36	4
Contracts Mgmt	32	44	Support	4	9
			Total	240	168

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Head office employees will start the festive season break from lunchtime (1pm) on Thursday 24th Dec 2009, returning to work on Monday 4th Jan 2010. All site employees will start their festive break at close of business on Friday 18th Dec 2009 and return to work on Monday 4th Jan 2010.

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