

THIS ISSUE - housing minister takes time to give praise, a trade mission wants to learn from us, asked to be a principal training partner, an exciting new project, 4 more quality completions, back buying land and selling homes, and who has completed a grueling challenge?

link

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the monthly Higgins Group news update

Craylands gets Minister's praise...



What a busy month at Craylands - with high profile visitors attending the site.

John Healey, the Government Housing Minister, took time out of his schedule to visit Beechwood Village (Craylands). He was keen to see the works that are to take place and how the community is involved. He was particularly impressed with the apprenticeship scheme that we are delivering on site, and took the opportunity to meet two of the apprentices.

The revamp of Craylands is expected to take ten years. About 900 homes will be demolished and replaced with 1,400 new ones - so lots to keep us busy!

We also hosted a Trade Mission from Quebec, Canada, which included

delegates from the Canadian Embassy, Quebec City Housing Department, and the Quebec Export Bureau. The Trade Mission had been in the UK looking at different projects and had visited the Eco Build Exhibition - they were particularly keen to learn from us about sustainability, environment, community and OSM delivery in the low rise social housing market.

"Meeting people like Adam and Martin is great. They are real success stories and they make my job worthwhile. A huge number of homes are being built here despite the recession and these apprenticeships have been created." John Healey

Barnardo's and Higgins delivering opportunities

Barnardo's

We are delighted that Barnardo's have asked the Higgins Group to be the principal Training Partner at 'The Hub Construction Skills Centre' in Stepney Green. This training partnership will provide fantastic opportunities for young people to be trained in construction skills and associated City

and Guilds qualifications.

The experience and qualifications that can be obtained will provide opportunities for trainees to be selected for placements on site and potentially a career for the future.

Higgins

Higgins Construction Spring is in the air at Braintree...



Working with the community at every stage of development is at the heart of our business and what better way to get everyone involved than an 'Eggravaganza' event. Over 400



residents recently attended a community event held by Higgins Construction and Greenfields Community Housing Association. 'Ivor Goodsite' had his very own special Easter Hunt - with children having to solve questions and clues about safety tools to find the chocolate eggs. The day also included the Fire Brigade and Police and with lots of fun craft themes for the children and a colouring competition the day was a great success. This event also gave the opportunity for any residents with questions or concerns about work that is being carried out to their homes to have a chat with staff.

We welcome feedback from

residents, and a 'Bingo and Fish 'n' Chips' evening was recently held to continue to build our relationships with the community, so that there is always a two way communication stream. It is from feedback that we can continually improve the services that we provide.

"One of the best attended events in the Glebe area. A great morning was had by all!"



New homes at New Dudley

A further stage of development has been completed at Stockwell Park.

New Dudley is a new build development of 57 units providing 1 and 2 bedroom flats for rent and private sales for the local community. These have all been delivered to our very high standards.

Community Trust Housing has made

a commitment to continue working with Higgins on this £7.23m development and as this site completes there are many further opportunities for us to continue to keep busy, including demolition, refurbishment and new build projects. **Well done to everyone working on the New Dudley site.**

Higgins Homes

A busy time for Higgins Homes as the property market continues to improve

Higgins Homes is continuing to buy further land as the housing market strengthens and the recession draws to a close, having recently acquired four sites across London and Essex in the last four weeks and due to exchange contracts on three more in the next two weeks.

Jeremy Marcus, Sales and Marketing Director, Higgins Homes, comments:

"The housing market has been very turbulent over the last few years but we are certainly seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and our decision to purchase these exciting new sites shows our confidence in the current market. These sites include our new flagship development at Aqua Vista, Bow Common Lane, Bow, E3 which is a



Computer generated image of Bow Common Lane

short distance from the rapidly emerging Olympic Village and represents a great example of Higgins Homes' dedication to building in investable, emerging locations."

As well as the Bow Common Lane

development, Higgins Homes has also purchased sites in Epping, Chigwell Row and Redbridge and is expecting contracts for two sites in Essex, including a school conversion, and a further site in London to be exchanged in the next few weeks. **Busy times ahead!**

Completions

Many thanks to everyone involved in the delivery of the 4 sites that all recently completed. The high standard of work that is continually delivered is recognised by our clients and creates further opportunities for future work.

Ely Court, Kingston, Surrey

Details: New build of houses, flats and maisonettes.

Value: £3.5m

Client: William Sutton Homes

Olive Avenue, Leigh on Sea, Essex

Details: Design and Build of 30 flats and 3 houses

Value: £3.4m

Client: Circle Anglia

Britannia Road, Brentwood, Essex

Details: Part demolition of a Victorian terrace to make way for development of fourteen properties.

Value: £1.5m **Client:** Circle Anglia

Bromley College

Details: Demolition of existing buildings and construction of a new technology block and workshops including external works and drainage.

Value: £7.4m

Client: Bromley College

Exciting new project

The Haven Project

Value: £3.4m

Description: Design and build of a 4/5 storey 26 bed care home together with 9 social rented flats

Clients: Islington and Shoreditch Housing Association (Rented Flats) West London Mission Housing Association (Care Home)

RELEASED FOR SALE



Surrex Grange

Old Road, Coggeshall, Essex C06 1RR

A small, 'boutique' development of ten traditional brick-built homes.

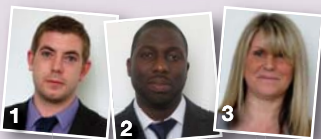
This flagship development offers attractive, generous 4 bedroomed properties, each with an ecologically friendly specification designed to save on both emissions and costs.

Prices from £475,000.

For information call 020 8508 6000

WELCOME

This month we would like to welcome **Michael Naylor** (1), who joins Higgins Construction as a Business Development Manager and **Martin Thompson** (2) who has joined on a 12 month Industrial Placement working at Beechwood Village (Craylands). Group



services would also like to welcome **Jackie Cook** (3) who has joined as a Payroll Administrator. Best wishes to you all in your new jobs.

WEDDING BELLS HAVE BEEN RINGING...

Mark Hargrave (1), Senior Contract Surveyor, has joined the 'married mans' club. Mark and his new wife Dawn recently married at Down Hall Hotel, Hatfield Heath enjoying a fantastic day celebrating with friends and family throughout.

They also have the honeymoon to look forward to, which they will be taking in early May when they jet off to the Algarve.

After a 2 year engagement

Nathan Fookes married Sarah on 1st April (2). The wedding ceremony and reception was held at the Fennes Estate in Bocking Essex. They had a short break in Cornwall after the wedding but are looking forward to honeymooning in America in September. May you all have many years of happiness.



LONG SERVICE

Louise Slyman (1), secretarial assistant, celebrates 15 years service with Higgins this month along with **Chris Twin** (2), handyman, who is celebrating 10 years service. Many thanks to you both for your hard work and commitment.



MARATHON MAN

Tackling the grueling 26.2 Miles London Marathon is something to be extremely proud of - and following committed training **Sean Robinson** completed this in 4hrs 49mins Sean has already raised £2,599 for the London Ambulance Service in memory of his sister and would welcome any further donations to this worthwhile cause. It couldn't be easier - just log on to www.justgiving.com/sean-robinson-london-marathon Congratulations on this fantastic achievement Sean!



A MINUTE WITH... LOUISE SLYMAN SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

Career highlight? Being promoted from Drawings to Buying Department, and making lots of good friends. Yet to find more career highlights!

Professional inspiration? My parents - no matter how tough things get you will always get through it.

Development/project you would have liked to have been involved with? I think the London 2012 Olympics would be such great project to be working on.

Best advice? Don't be afraid to always speak your mind, your point counts too.

Favourite film? The Commitments

Favourite Building? Eiffel Tower

Favourite Song/Album? Alisha Keys "Empire State of Mind" just love that at the moment.

First song/album ever bought? Lisa Stansfield - All around the world

Favourite Restaurant? Chimichanga (Mexican in South Woodford)

One luxury you will keep despite the credit crunch? Tough one daughter/chocolate, but I think it would have to be my daughter as there's never a dull moment...



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	20	Surveying	40	17
Pre-Con Design Mgmt	64	54	Procurement	16	0
CSR	12	22	Site Mgmt	36	14
Contracts Mgmt	32	10	Support	4	0
			Total	234	137

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