

THIS ISSUE - still as good now as 50 years ago, what are we first in the world for? making talk cheap, new Olympic venue announced, photogenic building wins, supporting the local community, who has been having social skills training? a recent marriage and a new arrival.

link

March 2011 issue 43

the monthly Higgins Group news update

Celebrating half a century!

Higgins Group celebrates its 50th Anniversary this month.

From when DJ Higgins & Sons Limited was first set up with a contract worth £36. 10s. 0d, to the company that today regularly has multi million pound contracts, the business principles first laid down by Mr Derek Higgins are still firmly embedded throughout the company.

The Higgins Group still has the same values and commitment for delivering quality services as it did 50 years ago, which are recognised by our clients and partners who continue to award us new contracts, ensuring that we are at the forefront of our sector.

To celebrate this milestone anniversary a Family Fun Day is being arranged for September for all Higgins staff and family members. There will be an 'it's a knock out challenge', bumper cars, bouncy castles and lots of fun activities for everyone to enjoy - make sure you join us to celebrate the fantastic achievements of the company.

From left to right: Stephen, Richard and Martin Higgins, standing in the company's first lorry, 1963.



First in the World

Higgins Construction has become the first organisation to be awarded a BREEAM Domestic Refurbishment Certificate in the UK (and the world!).

This was awarded to the team who worked on the retrofit property at 52 White Horse Avenue, Halstead, achieving an Excellent Rating.

In addition to this, the project was also awarded a 'Special Award', at the recent BREEAM Awards 2011, to recognise that the team had delivered the first Retrofit under the BREEAM ratings.

This is a fantastic achievement as BREEAM is the world's foremost design and construction assessment method and rating system for sustainable buildings and has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building's environmental performance.



"I would like to thank everyone involved in this project for your contributions to achieving this notable first and winning this award, hopefully it will stand us all in good stead for the developing Retrofit Market".

Paul Cooke, Director Pre Construction

Higgins

Higgins Vodaphone employee advantage



We have been working with Vodafone to bring our staff benefits and help save them money if possible. If you're new to Vodafone, or an existing customer eligible for an upgrade, then here are some exclusive offers for Higgins staff.

Get up to 20% off price plans every month

Spend £20 or more on your pay monthly plan and you can get 20% off, or if you spend less than £20 you'll get 10% off. Either way, you'll have a little extra cash in your pocket each month.

Good things should be shared, so pass on this information to 5 of your favourite people to give them the opportunity to save money as well.

Interested? then follow these simple steps:-

1. Sign up to your price plan or upgrade - This needs to be done directly through Vodafone so pop into your nearest Vodafone store, visit vodafone.co.uk or call 0800 022 058

2. Within the following 30 days, go to ECM or email info@vodafoneemployeeadvantage.co.uk for a link to the online form to complete your application
3. You'll get an email confirmation and that's it - you're good to go with your new discount applied
4. Up to 5 friends or family members can also benefit - just ask them to sign up and then you apply for the discount on their behalf

If you ever need to change or upgrade your price plan in the future, make sure you tell Vodafone - so your discount can be re-applied via the online form.

The offer is available on most 12, 18 and 24 month price plans purchased directly from Vodafone. Please check the terms and conditions for exceptions before you commit to your contract.



vodafone

Supporting the local community

An important element of the partnership between Higgins Construction and Greenfields Community Housing is to work and support the local community. We were therefore pleased to recently support the local football club and pick the 'man of the match'.

By raising our profile in the local areas that we work, we further confirm Higgins as a company that is truly committed to working with the local community to deliver successful projects.



The beauty of our buildings

Our development, 100 Park Village East, was recently entered into a photo competition run by the Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE) and was a successful winning entry.

The image was well regarded by the in-house judges both visually and for presenting engineering in a positive and impressive way. Following this they have also included the image in the new ACE Find a Consultant publication that will be circulated to thousands of client organisations.



Old Loughtonians count down to the Olympics

Higgins has been the sponsors of the Old Loughtonians Hockey Club for many years and is extremely proud that the Club has been officially announced as the training venue for Olympic Hockey.

To mark this fantastic occasion Mrs Olive Higgins recently unveiled a new Olympic Training Venue plaque in the club's main club room. Work will start in June on the pitches, floodlights and club house facilities to ensure that are at Olympic standard - the count down has begun.



Higgins Homes Buying a home stress-free

One of the most significant factors when buying a home is that the move is fast and as stress-free as possible, according to Newhomes.co.uk. New build houses and apartments are apparently most attractive to buyers as these properties are likely to be contemporary, fully-fitted, in convenient locations and most importantly, ready to move into immediately.

"Busy housebuyers do not want to spend the time completing a long, drawn out move if they can possibly help it. We recognise this and do all we can to ensure buying a home is as simple a process as possible".

Jeremy Marcus, Sales and Marketing Director

Hither Green is one of the most affordable, yet attractive, tree-lined areas close to central London, being located a few minutes walk from the local shops,

and many high street stores at nearby Lewisham.

Joe Doran, 38, is a first time buyer who has just bought a brand new, one-bedroom apartment at Prime at Hither Green. Joe, a civil servant, chose his apartment at Prime as it was ready to move into immediately, close to central London and fantastic value for money.

"I relocated back to the UK last year, after ten years living abroad. I happened to drive past the Prime development one day and I immediately fell in love with the sophisticated, high specification apartments there.

"I wanted something stylish but also a move that was hassle-free and I knew that a second-hand home was not an option. The apartment was ready to move into straight away and it included a fabulous fully integrated kitchen and flooring. I really couldn't have asked for more."



Apartments at Prime start from just £109,950 for a studio apartment with separate bedroom area and kitchen and £139,950 for one bedroom apartments. For further information please contact the sales and marketing suite on telephone: 020 8697 4761

WELCOME

We would like to welcome **Val Veal** who has joined the Group Services Facilities Team on a temporary basis to assist with Post Room duties and provide Maternity Cover for Jo Hilson. We wish you well in your new position.

LONG SERVICE

This month sees 5 staff celebrate their long service achievements, **Sammi El-Houssami**, Site Agent, celebrates 20 years with **Jeremy Marcus**, Sales Director (Homes) and **Debra Pritlove**, Training and HR Administrator, completing 15 years and both **Ross Jenyon**, Projects Manager, and **Colin Chatfield**, Managing Buyer, having now worked for Higgins for a decade. We send our thanks and congratulations to you all for your hard work and commitment.

WEDDING

Paul Smith married his girlfriend, Stephanie, at the stunning Chelmsford Cathedral on the 26th February. The ceremony was followed by a reception with family and friends at the beautiful Ingatestone Hall. Paul and Stephanie had been together for 4 1/2 years before they married and finished off this wonderful event by honeymooning in Thailand for 2 1/2 weeks. We wish them both a very happy and long married life together.



CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations are sent to **James Philips** on the safe arrival of his new baby son. Oliver Scott was born on 21st February and weighed 8lb 13oz - will we be seeing him with a hard hat on site in years to come?



DID YOU KNOW?

David Hartwell looks after guide dog puppies.

"After losing our pet Labrador my wife, Wendy and I didn't want to put ourselves through the heartache of that again. However we soon discovered that there was a hole in our lives and after a year without a dog we decided instead to offer our services to Guide Dogs for the Blind as puppy walkers. We have walked Bert, Zag (who I brought in the office) and currently now Lynx.

Puppy walking consists of taking the puppy at about 6 weeks old. For the next 12-14 months we carry out basic house training and lay down basic commands. Giving them experiences of

our world, such as buses, trains, noisy environments (I took Zag to West Ham!!) helps get them to take things in their stride and not get distracted when they are working.

4 days after I brought Zag into the office he moved onto the advanced training centre at Woodford and has settled in and is doing well. After this 16 weeks training he will be paired up with his potential final owner and when he is finally qualified we get our prized photo of him in his harness and jacket. Crossing fingers and toes hopefully in a few months time I can show you all the photo of this."



FAREWELL TO BARRY

Barry Cornell started at Higgins on 1st August 1974 as a Pipe Fitter. Over the 36 1/2 years he was at Higgins he worked his way up to Senior Site Agent.

Barry recently retired to spend more time enjoying his grandchildren

and his love for fishing and motorbikes. We send our sincere thanks to Barry for his hard work, dedication and commitment to the Higgins Group and wish him a very 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	30	18	Surveying	40	0
Pre Con Design Mgmt	64	60	Procurement	16	4
CSR	12	25	Site Mgmt	36	0
Contracts Mgmt	32	20	Support	4	16
			Total	234	143

If you would like a copy of 'link' in large print, Braille, on CD or in your language, please contact Laura Williams, laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk