

THIS ISSUE - how are we getting ready for the challenging times ahead? a family affair to name the new mascot, looking out for land, celebrating from a height, who is the new Director? who has been promoted? what is planned for the social year ahead? and what school boy is re-building his old school?

# link

January 2012 issue 53

the monthly Higgins Group news update

## Looking ahead



To address the changing needs of the business, and the construction industry, Higgins Group is committed to making sure we develop our staff to be in a position to meet challenges that we will be facing over the next few years.

We continue to deliver training opportunities for all our employees and this month launched a new 'Management Development Programme' (MDP). This will be delivered in partnership with QC Training International to enhance the management and leadership skills of Higgins Senior Managers.

The 18 month course covers

modules ranging from 'Managing Teams' to 'Commerical Acumen'. A key element of the programme is the requirement that each participant presents an innovative idea to the company that demonstrates a business cost saving. So commercial thinking and consideration is paramount!

"I am pleased that the initial group have committed to the programme and started the hard work and learning process that will give them more confidence and enhance their skills, along with strengthening the management level of the Group. I wish you all the very best of luck."

Steve Leakey

## Introducing... Mr Phil Safe

Our new mascot has been named. Thank you to everyone who submitted a suggestion, but after discussions we are pleased to announce that 'Phil Safe' has been chosen.

Many thanks go to Rob Charnock, and his daughters, for coming up with a name that identifies our Higgins mascot and at the same time promotes our commitment to Health and Safety – well done. How fitting that it was a family choice for a family organisation!

I am sure we will be seeing 'Phil' in many photos during 2012.



# Higgins

## Higgins Construction high celebrations at Mill Farm Close



Mill Farm is a £22m regeneration project that Higgins Construction is working in partnership with Harrow Council and Catalyst Housing to deliver 158 properties, including affordable rent, shared ownership and private sale homes.

We have been able to provide six residents with employment on this site, ranging from carpentry to administration positions and continue to work closely with the residents and stakeholders.

There was cause for celebration recently when the highest point of the new estate was completed, so following a celebratory 'bingo' lunch with residents we were joined by Cllr Bob Currie and

Rod Cahill, Chief Executive of Catalyst, to formally mark the occasion.

**"I am pleased that residents at Mill Farm have been closely involved in the regeneration with a number of job opportunities and training schemes underway. We are very lucky to have strong and united communities in Harrow and it is our priority that this is maintained and nurtured for future generations. We are working with the team at Catalyst and Higgins to make sure that this ambitious regeneration continues to be a great success."**

Portfolio holder for housing, Cllr Bob Currie



## Looking for Land!



Higgins Construction actively seek new development opportunities to introduce to our housing association and care home clients. By introducing new sites, with a build budget for any proposed scheme, we are able to negotiate a direct build contract and avoid the normal competitive tendering route should they subsequently acquire the site. This will hopefully generate more business in these challenging times!

Our housing association clients now have to deliver a significant number of HCA grant funded units by March 2015, and therefore need to acquire the land to deliver those units in the next 12-18 months to ensure that their schemes are on site in time to complete by March 2015.

If you hear of, or see, any potential development sites that could be suitable for residential or care home development, please can you use the Tender Gossip system. We know that many of you already do highlight potential opportunities in this way, for which we are grateful.

We do follow these up and will keep you advised of how they progress.

## Higgins Homes what a great start to 2012

As a testament to the fantastic homes that Higgins Homes build there has been an overwhelming response to the two new developments launched this month.

Ludus, Saffron Walden, saw a Victorian language school restored and converted into 22 individual apartments along with the development of 15 new exquisite three and four bedroom houses. This unique development sees every home finished to the highest standards with a luxurious specification. It was therefore no surprise that prior to the launch there was a database of nearly 500 registered applicants keen to have an opportunity to own one of these stunning homes, with 71 appointments taking place over the two launch days and the diary packed for future weekends - what a fantastic achievement to start the year!

To further this success Morello Mews, Chelmsford was launched on the



The Old School House - Ludus, Saffron Walden

same day, which also created excitement and interest by many potential purchasers looking for their unique home. This is a small boutique development of just 12 luxury 3 and 4 bedroom houses in a new courtyard setting, near Chelmsford town centre, offering the same exacting high standards and specification for which Higgins Homes has become renowned.

**"The high levels of interest in these developments has been fantastic and a great start to 2012. I would like to thank both sales teams who worked incredibly hard over the launch weekend to capitalize on the interest and we're expecting both to sell out on or in front of programme".**

Jeremy Marcus, Sales & Marketing Director



Morello Mews, Chelmsford



Houses - Ludus, Saffron Walden

**Ludus:** Two bed apartments £249,950 to £475,000. Three bed houses from £399,500, Four bed houses from £435,000. Call 01799 520 470 for details.

**Morello Mews:** Three bed houses from £310,000, Four bed houses from £415,000. Call 01245 250 956 for details.

## WELCOME

We welcome **Simon Lambourne** who has joined the Higgins Construction Board as Commercial Director. Simon's appointment will strengthen our commercial expertise.



## LONG SERVICE

We send our congratulations to **Peter Worth** - Senior Project Manager, who celebrates 20 years of working for Higgins Group this month. Many thanks for your hard work and commitment.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following members of staff who have received promotions in recognition of their hard work. Keep up the good work.

**Glen Smith** - Plant Manager,  
**Steve Watters** - Senior Contract

Surveyor, **Stuart Brown** - Senior Contract Surveyor, **Paul Brooking** - Site Manager, **David Batchelor** - Assistant Plant Manager and **Kelly Baker** - IS Service Desk Co-ordinator.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FUN DAY 2012**  
Saturday 7th July

## HISS EVENT

2012 is looking to be a good year for events. Look out for confirmed dates and join in the fun with other staff members.

**February**.....Games Night  
.....Dogs  
**March**.....Pool Night  
**April**.....Bowling  
**May**.....5 a Side Football  
**June**.....Tubing

**7th July**.....Family Fun Day 2012  
**August**.....Paintbailing  
**September**.....Go Karting  
**October**.....Top Golf  
**November**.....Bowling  
**December**.....Quiz night

## TOP MARKS AT ST JOHNS SCHOOL...

Our Epping School project is unique in the fact that we developed an innovative solution to ensure that complete funding of the new school was provided.

Who else better to work on this site than a former pupil of the school! **George Lloyd** is the Assistant Site Manager and takes extreme pride in the fact that he is part of this groundbreaking team.

George joined Higgins in 2004 as an apprentice carpenter and through his hard work, determination to deliver quality services and enthusiasm to learn he has become the youngest person in the organisation to reach this position. George has developed a good working relationship with the school



and its pupils and will be assisting them in different projects as the development progresses.

## ANNOUNCING THE GOSSIP WINNERS FOR 2011

WELL DONE TO ALL YOU GOSSIPERS!

**Joe Leedham, Graham Pepperdine, Michael O'Sullivan, Carole Pridmore, Nick Koster, Ian Byrne, Kevin Horner and Mark Francis.**

The overall winning department is Pre-Con Design Management with the winning score of 1065, smashing their target by 297 points - great work!

### December results...

Department	Target	Tot	Department	Target	Tot
Pre Con Cost Mgmt	30	28	Surveying	40	12
Pre Con Design Mgmt	64	44	Procurement	16	22
CSR	12	16	Site Mgmt	36	0
Contracts Mgmt	32	20	Support	4	0
			Total	<b>234</b>	<b>142</b>

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)

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](mailto:laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk)