



MD's UPDATE

STEVE BURKE

Well, it's official.. the recession is over!!

I mentioned in the last newsletter that we were waiting to hear on a number of tendered schemes where we were under consideration; I'm very happy to report that over the last three months we've successfully converted many of them and have started, or are about to start, on no less than 8 new Projects.

We're picking up jobs across many of our traditional sectors and, as has been our aim over the last couple of years, we've continued to consolidate our Health Sector experience; we've secured our first scheme with MerseyCare where we are extending and refurbishing the Scott Clinic Step Down Unit, whilst the building remains operational. The design and build scheme at Brookview Nursing Home is our first for BUPA and to round up our Health Sector haul, we've just started on site with a new D&B Project to provide a Medical Centre for MedicX in Rochdale.

Elsewhere the new jobs include major Fit Out works at Media City for Peel; a new Community Centre in Sandbach; provision of a new Arts Facility at the University of Central Lancashire, a 35 Bedroom Student Accommodation unit in Manchester and 12 new Apartments in Holywell, Wales for our international division.

And if that wasn't enough... just to prove the recession really is over, we've now filled our previously vacant 3,000ft² ground floor accommodation at Chadwick House with 2 new tenants!

Before I get too carried away, and just to bring us back down to earth with a bump, the tendered schemes have been won at extremely competitive rates and the rent we're getting on the office space is rubbish... so maybe the recession isn't over just yet!

All joking aside, whilst the market continues to be unbelievably tight, our tendering opportunities and forward pipeline remain strong - we're in recruitment mode for the first time for a while which is great news and there even appears to be the possibility of a couple of negotiated jobs on the horizon (last spotted 3 years ago!).

Elsewhere, the industry seems pretty inconsistent; clearly some companies are struggling to secure work whilst other are flat out and there doesn't appear to be too much rhyme or reason to it. This isn't just among contractors, the same applies across the board; discussions with our supply chain and design teams confirm the same confused picture?

For our part, we need to maintain what we're doing; we are pretty light on our feet and have a good track record in many varied sectors, which undoubtedly has stood us in good stead through these difficult times.

I am clear that our current crop of tendering opportunities and secured workload has nothing to do with good luck or being in the right place at the right time... it is all about hard work and our commitment to our client's success - we mustn't ever lose sight of that.

Steve

Congratulations...

To Dan and Carly Hodgson who got married recently. Don't they make a lovely couple!



NEW PROJECTS ON SITE

NEW MEDICAL CENTRE ROCHDALE

New medical centre and pharmacy, 2 storey build incorporating consulting rooms, treatment bays and meeting rooms. The building will be constructed using traditional methods and also features BREEAM excellent rating. The project includes car parking and landscaping.



HANOVER HOUSE PROJECT, UCLAN

Construction of new single storey extension & alterations and part overcladding of the existing Hanover building. Provision of new plant room and services. Landscaping & external works. The adjacent buildings will remain in use during the works.



CHURCH HALL, ST PETERS

The construction of a new church hall facility including finishes and building services installations together with associated drainage, external works and external services.



BROOKVIEW NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL CENTRE, BUPA

This project involves the construction of a 14 bed extension to an existing care home including drainage, M&E, and external works.



B4 BUILDING MEDIA CITY

To install a first floor level structural steel floor with hollow rib and RC concrete floor slab. To form retail premises - including demolition and reconstruction of new internal walls to individual units.



BOUNDARY LODGE, STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Internal conversion of an existing block of student apartments containing 12nr separate apartments, together with separate ground floor office suite, lounge area, laundry and storage. Externally there are incidental works to create defensible space to front elevation and new drainage services.



SCOTT CLINIC, ST HELENS

Strip out and refurbishment of part of the ground floor area of an existing building to create a ten bedroom with en suites Step Down Unit with kitchens canteen toilets and offices etc. The building will remain operational throughout the construction phase.



HOLYWELL APARTMENTS

26 week project to construct 12 No apartments in 2 blocks. Both blocks are of timber frame construction which will then be clad with brickwork or blockwork rendered. The internal finishing consists of full fit out plaster, electrics, plumbing, kitchens & floor and wall finishes. Externally we are to form new car parking to Block C & D and complete the car parking to A & B.



Topping out
Ceremony
Greco

I'm not sure that they had the best of days for it, but nothing was going to deter Mrs Finch from performing the topping out ceremony at their new build in Mere. She obviously has a better head for heights than me, as she was straight into the cherry picker and up to the roof to place the chimney pot in position. Once back on terra firma everyone had a glass of champagne to celebrate and then back to work.



COMPLETED CONTRACTS

Knutsford

The full refurbishment of an existing 7,000 sq ft luxury dwelling, including re-roofing works and replacement of all internal structural floors. In addition to the refurbishment of the existing building, the scheme also included construction of a new 7,000 sq ft extension incorporating addition basement space and swimming pool. The completed building was fitted out to an exceptional standard as befits this type of luxury accommodation. Congratulations to Wes and the team on the completion of an excellent project.



Bredbury

The project at Bredbury included the construction of a 2 storey Visitor Education Centre, a single storey Amenity Building with a piled foundation, and a single storey Weigh Bridge. All of the above were traditional brick build construction and all 3 buildings are finished as per GMW Authority Standards. Congratulations to Ben McDermott on his first completed project as Site Manager.



CPUK Summer BBQ Sunday 31st July

For the first time in the history of the CPUK BBQ we had to cancel the original date due to a lousy weather forecast and re-arranged it for the very last day of July. This was also a bit of a gamble because the schools had broken up by then which normally heralds six weeks of rain and wind! The re-arranged date did, however, mean that we had some regular attendees who couldn't make it and they were sadly missed.



Have you done a risk assessment Mike?



We were lucky and everything went well; we even managed to avoid injuries to staff or families despite falls from the inflatable surf board, the crashing of the giant jenga blocks, and an ultra competitive sack race (what do you expect with a load of alpha males!). We almost had an enforced vegetarian BBQ, salads, bread and cakes only, as by 3.45pm there was no sign of our meat (or our cook). A hasty phone call confirmed a mix up in the arrangements, our butcher was wondering why there were no signs of life outside the Skelmersdale office - apparently I hadn't clarified the venue properly and he assumed he was going to the invoice address - whoops! No harm done, we just ended up eating a little later than planned but something to check for next year!



Looking good Andy...

...Whoops!

The inflatable surf board was a big hit with the youngsters and with the young at heart, with some very impressive performances. Unfortunately no-one had the camera ready to catch Louise fall off the surfboard and then back flip right out of the inflatable and onto the grass. Proved a great source of amusement for her parents who were down for the weekend though and could have made someone a few bob on 'you've been framed'! When the surf board and bouncy castle packed up for the day it left the back of the garden clear for football and sack races.



And they're off...

We managed to find 5 volunteers for the sack race and after a false start (a bit of gamesmanship from Mr Gaskell), they were off. The crowd were going wild, 5 grown men jumping around in sacks is a hilarious spectacle - it should be an Olympic sport. Knowing how accident prone Lee is, I had my reservations about his taking part but despite the jostling and tumbling he made it round the football nets and back to the start as winner, to rapturous applause from the excited spectators.



Nervous anticipation from the crowd

Unfortunately the effort involved must have had a longer term debilitating effect on him; on Tuesday he fell off his front door step and fractured a bone in his arm! The kids had a go next, despite the fact that some of them could barely be seen over the top of the sacks. I wonder if I need to increase our public liability insurance?



The girls giving Matthew a challenge

As afternoon turned into evening people starting heading for home by car, train and in Dan and Carly's case, pushbike - complete with child seat for Max - very impressive. I even managed to gauge the amount of food we needed a bit better this year so Steve doesn't have to live on leftovers all week! Thanks to everyone for coming - see you next year.

Jane

Congratulations!

A couple of very proud Dad's brought their new babies into the office recently; John McGlynn is proudly showing off young Harry who was born on 3rd June weighing in at 5 lb, whilst Lee Riozzi is happy to let Archie take the limelight.

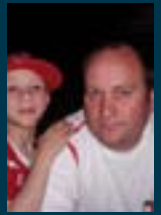
Archie is a couple of weeks older than Harry, born on 19th June, weighing 5 lb 11 ozs.

Our congratulations go to John and Kayla and to Lee and Carly.



Milestone Birthdays

A special mention in this Newsletter for two members of staff who have recently reached milestone birthdays. Ken Boal, one of our most long standing foreman reached his half century on the 19th June and Sue organised him a surprise party. It's hard to believe that Ken has reached this particular milestone as he has a young son of only 8 and an apparent love of dance music more normally appreciated by people half his age!



Paul Whittle celebrated his 40th birthday on the 7th July and was treated to a surprise weekend away by his wife Katie. Paul is a hard working and conscientious site manager and his calm, laid back manner makes him very popular with co-workers, clients and subcontractors alike.

CPUK Charity Bike Ride - Sunday 25th June "Every Second Counts"

This is not just the title of Lance Armstrong's autobiography but also an extract from a quote on the website of Derian House, Children's Hospice. I am delighted to be able to report that we have raised well in excess of £1500 towards this most worthy cause. 10 employees have now joined the CPUK Cycle to Work scheme, several of whom have taken up "serious" cycling for the first time. Particular congratulations go to 3 relative newcomers, Ben McDermott, Mark Nuttall and John Wrigley all of whom completed the 58 mile circuit in style.



In fact Mark Nuttall was awarded a maximum 10 points for his stylish somersault after only 2 miles, feet still clipped to his pedals! He has since tried to explain that someone in front of him wasn't cycling quickly enough and it was down to his own skill that he didn't take out any other riders in the "peleton"!!

Mike Gregory (the youngest member of the team) very bravely (or is that naively?) thought that he could borrow a bike for the day and complete the 58 miles without any training and not even wearing padded cycle shorts (ouch!). Steve Rees had barely put in more effort than Mike on the training front and he too was made to pay, as he struggled to keep up with the rest of us as we made our way from Cottam Lane in Preston to Birch Abbey care home in Southport.



This was partly due to Steve ignoring advice on buying a mountain bike with big fat tyres to slow him down. This might be likened to trying to run a marathon whilst wearing your heavy work boots... All in all it was great fun and more importantly we raised a significant amount of money for a worthy cause in the process. John Wrigley has been drumming up support for a CPUK Bike Club to set off on a 15-20 mile bike ride from Chadwick House at 4.15pm every Friday from now until the end of October. [Please let John know if you wish to participate.](#)

An update from Springview FC

Our U8 team were invited to be Team of the Week at Wigan Athletics game v Tottenham Hotspur on the 2nd April 2011. The team profile and photograph appeared in the Match day programme, we had a tour of the stadium, including changing rooms and pitch side. But the obvious highlight was meeting the managers and players of the two teams, getting autographs and photographs. We watched the match and to finish the day all went to Frankie and Benny's for tea.



We have commenced a Community Programme for 2011 and we are going to provide free football sessions in three local schools, hopefully leading to the formation of a Reception Soccer School and new U7, U8 and U9 teams from August 011. [Phil Barton](#)

Congratulations...

To Dan Hodgson who clocked up 5 years service in July 2011. Dan is a Senior Engineer and as you can see from the photo on the front cover, has been having a very busy year. It's hard to recognise him from this photo - he doesn't usually look so serious!



Well done to Darren Thorpe who has recently attained his degree in Quantity Surveying. As previously mentioned, it's no small achievement fitting studying around a full time job. I'm not sure how happy he is about me including this photo though - anyway, as they say, anyone who's a friend of batman is a friend of mine!