

## A foreword from Peter Smyth, Managing Director

On behalf of the Directors I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work or support and interest in Bakers of Danbury and its sister companies Collins & Curtis Masonry and Pickford Builders over 2016.

We have had another busy year across all the companies and as we come to the end of the year, I would like to share with you some of the very interesting projects we have had the honour of being part of; from works to St Pauls Cathedral, Charterhouse and the Barbican in London, a new build veterinary surgery in Purleigh Essex and the stunning St Mary at Quay Project in Ipswich along with various works to schools, commercial premises and private residences. We continue to focus on carrying out quality works and note with great pleasure that some of our projects have again been entered for various awards including the 2017 RICS awards.

This summer we welcomed our new Health and Safety Manager, Maxwell Diaba. Max is responsible for regularly monitoring and reviewing the health and safety procedures in place, as well as ensuring the company and its sites are fully compliant with HSE. Max works closely with our external Health and Safety advisors Eastern Builders Safety Group.

Since the recent acquisition of the trading name of Noble and Taylor (Ongar) Ltd, Rob Tate has joined us from Noble and Taylor and has been busy project managing various works, including works from his previous Noble and Taylor clients. I would like to thank those Clients for their support and faith in us following the unfortunate demise of Noble and Taylor.

After some 135 years of trading we have also employed a Marketing and Business Development manager who has started to introduce new and exciting Stakeholder communication initiatives across all of our companies. Kate Gunner joined us in the summer having previously worked in the renewable energy industry and has already launched our new websites for Bakers of Danbury and Collins and Curtis as well as new websites for our sister companies L.J Watts Memorials, Bakers Funeral Services, A.G Smith Funeral Directors. Please visit our new website [bakersofdanbury.co.uk](http://bakersofdanbury.co.uk) and sign up to our newsletter for your chance to win our free prize draw\* for a £50 Marks and Spencer voucher.

Sadly 2016 has continued the trend of recent years and has seen a number of established contractors in our field cease trading. This, as ever, serves to remind the Directors how fortunate we are to have so many dedicated and loyal teams of quality craftsmen and managers. This along with our many loyal customers, continues to put the company in a strong position to take advantage of gaps in the market left where others have been less fortunate.

So despite the shock of the vote in June to leave the EU we remain very positive about the future of the company and indeed 2017 is looking very positive with a 56 week project just commenced at Westminster Abbey for Ptolemy Dean Architects, a number of church projects lined up for early in the year and a positive pipeline of insurance works stretching out well into 2017.

On behalf of all the Directors I wish you and your families a peaceful but merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year

\* Please visit our new website [bakersofdanbury.co.uk](http://bakersofdanbury.co.uk) and sign up to our newsletter for your chance to win our free prize draw for a £50 Marks and Spencer voucher. Terms and Conditions apply, please call 01245 225 876 to ask for a copy of the terms and conditions.

## St Paul's Cathedral

This year saw Bakers of Danbury returning to St Paul's Cathedral London, this time to refurbish part of the Crypt. Throughout the works, Bakers worked closely with the Cathedral works team to ensure works took place whilst the Cathedral remained open to the general public.

This interesting project involved very careful excavation of the Crypt floor and close working with the Cathedral Archaeologist, to ensure that any remains found were reburied.

The extensive refurbishment works included a new layout and refurbishment to the public washrooms, a total refurbishment of the Mezzanine floor, old clay pannment tiles laid from the Crypt to the public washrooms and comprehensive modern LED lighting installed to the Crypt and Mezzanine floor.



## *A new build family home near Epping Forest*

Bakers of Danbury are very close to completion of a large new build family home near Epping Forest. The original house was demolished by Bakers and a new high spec property constructed on the footprint of the original.

The new property comprises of a double story traditional front, in-keeping with the previous Georgian style property, and a triple story of a modern glazed system design to the rear of the property. The house has been constructed on a sloping site, with a large basement cut into the bank. The basement houses a swimming pool, gymnasium, games room and cinema room with state of the art audio visual systems



## *Revealing the Charterhouse*

Bakers of Danbury are proud to be the chosen Principal Contractor to realise the visionary project "Revealing the Charterhouse".

The £2.1 million project, funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund and other generous supporters will open the Charterhouse to the general public early 2017 - for the first time in over 650 years!

To the front of the hidden London Landmark; we will remove a wall which currently hides part of the Charterhouse from passers-by and replace it with new landscaping whilst part of the Grade I listed building is being re-modelled to house a new museum, learning centre, reception area and public toilets which will be accessed through Charterhouse Square.

Charterhouse square is also being re-designed, inspired by its 18th century layout. We have increased the square in size, by removing parking bays and are currently installing gas lamps, a new pavilion and benches. We are refurbishing the Grade II listed entrance gates, as well as refurbishing and adding to the railings surrounding the square.

Other works carried out by Bakers as part of the project include the extensive repairs to the external fabric of the Chapel to the north of Charterhouse square. Works are being carried out by our directly employed tradesmen, and stone supplied by our sister company Collins & Curtis Masonry.

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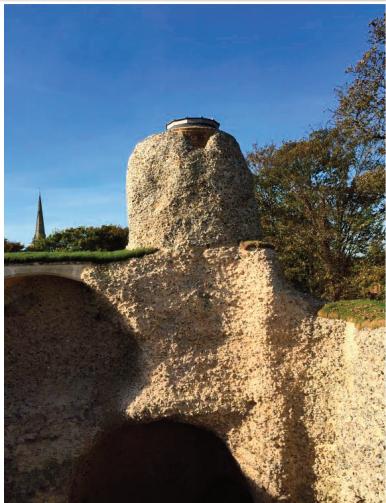
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## Walden Castle, Saffron Walden, Essex

Bakers of Danbury have carried out the conservation work to the impressive high flint walls of this late Norman castle which is listed as an Ancient Monument and involved the installation of a soft capping to protect the tops of the walls from deterioration.

We believe the soft capping installed at Walden Castle is the first of its kind in East Anglia. It comprises of low maintenance grass and other plants which were carefully pre-selected to protect the walls from thermal and moisture fluctuations.

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## Braxted Park Estate, Essex

Bakers have been repairing, re-building and in some places re-pointing a 200 year old perimeter wall surrounding the Braxted Park Estate in Essex. As the wall is approximately 4.5 miles long, conservation works on the whole perimeter wall will take several years to complete.

Conservation works to the wall have included the use of Calbux hotlime and reuse existing bricks, as well as new bricks to match the existing.



## Quay Place, Ipswich, Suffolk



Andy Marshall – Architectural Photography

Formerly the church of St Mary-at-the-Quay but now called Quay Place, was until its recent regeneration a redundant medieval Church. The Grade II listed church which was believed to have been built around 1450 and 1550, is located next to Ipswich's quayside. It suffered from war damage, damp, a decayed roof and leaning walls until the 17 month restoration programme gave Quay Place a new future as a centre for both heritage and wellbeing activities, café and an event space alongside therapy provision.

The Churches Conservation Trust teamed up with the local charity Suffolk Mind, and together they secured Heritage Lottery Funds and European Regional Development Funds to cover the cost of the restoration. In April 2014 Bakers of Danbury started work on the project as Principal Contractor. The specialist restoration works include the structural stabilisation and incorporation of a large contemporary mezzanine floor for office space. A new contemporary extension to a contemporary design which provides further offices and consulting rooms.

Collins and Curtis supplied all new stone for the restoration and new build. Measurements were taken onsite to produce templates, which were then used to manufacture the replacement features to arches, jambs, tracery, cills and copings in their workshops. Traditional methods of masonry were used to manufacture the stone details. Quay Place was recently awarded the Highly Commended Award within the Ipswich Society Awards 2016.

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Baker's sister company, Pickford Builders have had a very busy 2016, with both contracts and insurance works, ranging from the usual school refurbishments to new build projects.

However refurbishments of toilets seemed to be a reoccurring theme throughout 2016. They started the year refurbishing and upgrading the toilets at the prestigious Gaynes Parks Estate to a very tight deadline between wedding bookings. Gaynes Park is a stylish and contemporary barn wedding venue in the grounds of a historic country estate in Epping, Essex.

The Gaynes Park project was followed by two further upgrades to toilet blocks at Plumberow Primary School, Hockley and Roding Valley High School, Loughton.

Recent projects include a double extension and remodelling of a family home in Thaxted, Essex and a challenging first floor extension built over an existing garage in Maldon, Essex. Both Projects were completed to a high specification within time and to budget.



Collins & Curtis have been busy again this year supplying masonry to a variety of interesting projects. This year's phase of restoration works to Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge is now complete where replacement masonry units in Ancaster Hard White stone were used to rebuild the Gables.

Further shop fronts in Oxford Street, London have been given a makeover using Portland stone and Granite. As well as the completion of these and numerous small projects, the supply of the Clipsham for the new Woolf Institute Building at Westminster College, Cambridge and all of the masonry units for a large new house at Heydonbury in Hertfordshire are progressing well and should be complete early in the New Year.

Collins and Curtis are proud to have been involved in the RICS award winning conservation and extension works on Clare Priory, a medieval



Church in Suffolk – thought to be one of the oldest in England. The Conservation and extension of Clare Priory was awarded Project of the Year within the "Building Conservation" category in the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) 2015 Awards. The project involved conservation of the original structure to enable its continued use as a meeting area and reception, and a contemporary extension to give access to a new worship area space.

Memorials continue to be busy with some interesting bespoke projects.

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