

A foreword from Peter Smyth, Managing Director

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter, we have all been very busy since our last newsletter which was distributed December last year. Fortunately we have continued to have the pleasure of working on some very interesting projects on iconic buildings including Westminster Abbey, Spitalfields Market and the Charterhouse in London. We have also completed a number of beautiful new build/extensions to large dwellings.

Company workload remains buoyant with a good flow of tender opportunities continuing to come our way due, without any doubt, to our continued excellent reputation as a result of the quality of our work and the dedication and craftsmanship of all our employees.

Although our workload remains very diverse the company remains better known for its conservation and restoration works to our regions' fine historic and listed buildings, churches and monuments. I am very pleased to announce therefore that over the past few weeks, four of our recent projects have won prestigious awards:

- RICS East of England 2017 award for Building Conservation - Quay Place, Ipswich
- RIBA East 2017 award - St Albans Abbey
- RIBA East 2017 award for Conservation - St Albans Abbey
- Diocese of Chelmsford, Design Award 2017 – St Catherine's Church, East Tilbury
- Diocese of Chelmsford, Design Award 2017 – Newland, St Lawrence

On behalf of the Directors I would like to take this opportunity to offer my gratitude for everyone's hard work and congratulate all those who contributed to and worked on these and indeed all projects.

I would also like to congratulate Ben Little (Apprentice Joiner) who since our last newsletter has been highly commended at the ECTA Excellent Trainee Awards. Glen McPhee (Contracts Manager within our Insurance Repairs Department) has been busy, already having achieved SMSTS, MEWPS for Managers and a course on Commercial Awareness & Record Keeping this year! Congratulations are also in order for Amy Bennett (Insurance Repair Department) who completed the London Marathon in 4 hours 50 minutes. We are very proud of Amy for her dedication to the arduous training regime and for raising £3,364 by completing the marathon for Brainwave - a local charity that supports children with disabilities.

I am sure all who know our Site Manager David Lillywhite will join me in wishing him all the best in his retirement. Dave joined the Church Works Department back in 1988 where his knowledge, ability, loyalty and sheer personality had an immediate effect and remained a very important part of the business until the day he retired. His contribution to the business and assistance to me personally over the years has been invaluable.

Finally I would like to thank you all for your hard work, support and interest in Bakers of Danbury, including its sister companies Collins and Curtis Masonry and Pickford Builders. If you would like to keep up-to-date with Bakers' latest projects, you can do so by visiting www.bakersofdanbury.co.uk.



Mark Holland with RICS Award



Ben Little



Amy Bennett

A Royal approval

Having been hidden from view and closed to public for over 650 years - the Charterhouse, a historic London landmark was recently opened to public by Queen Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh (28 February 2017). The Queen also unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

Bakers of Danbury were Principal Contractors for the works to the Charterhouse. The project named "Revealing the Charterhouse", included remodelling of the Grade I listed building to house a new museum and learning centre; which explores the history of the Charterhouse from the Black Death to present day. It also included extensive fabric repairs to Charterhouse Chapel as well as landscaping and restoration to Charterhouse Square.



Ann Kenrick OBE, Master, the Charterhouse said:

"We are hugely grateful for the works carried out by Bakers of Danbury and for their unwavering dedication to the Revealing the Charterhouse project. The skilled craftsmen from Bakers work to an extremely high standard producing a finish which has exceeded all of our expectations. They were a pleasure to work with, always keeping to their word, and we couldn't be happier with their overall approach and diligence.

I would recommend Bakers of Danbury to anyone."

Bakers win RIBA Awards

We are pleased to announce that, as principal contractor under the Architect, Richard Griffiths, we have been awarded RIBA East Award 2017 and a RIBA East Award 2017 for Conservation for our work to The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban over a 17 year period.

Bakers of Danbury have a long-running and on-going relationship with the Cathedral which we are very proud to be a part of and consider it a privilege to maintain this incredible building for future generations to utilise and appreciate.

Recent works include external stone conservation, replacement and repairs, as well as repairs to leaded glazing and replacement sand cast lead roofing. Works were carried out to a very high standard of craftsmanship, despite the inherent difficulties of working at a busy Cathedral with regular events requiring noise restrictions and nearby heavy pedestrian traffic within a town centre. Intensive site management and close liaison with Cathedral staff & Local Authorities ensured works were undertaken safely and helped minimise inconvenience to the Client's daily events within the Cathedral.



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Short Film of Traditional Woodcarving

Visit www.bakersofdanbury.co.uk to watch a short film of one of our Joiners hand carving crocus detail for works taking place at St Marys Church, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Founded over 130 years ago; our joinery workshop is still located in-house in Danbury. We are proud that our skills and expertise have been handed down through generations.



King Harold Memorial - Bakers return after 50 years

Over 50 years have passed since Bakers of Danbury were originally instructed to install a memorial stone for King Harold within the grounds of Waltham Abbey church (said to be King Harold's final resting place). Fast forward to 2017 and Bakers of Danbury have returned to restore the stone memorial.

The monument was originally installed in the churchyard in 1964, overseen by Mr David Wood who later became Managing Director of Bakers of Danbury. Bakers of Danbury have returned over 50 years later to restore the memorial. This time, works were over seen by David Wood's son, Antony Wood who having followed in his father's footsteps, is now a Director of Bakers of Danbury. In addition to restoring the original memorial, Bakers of Danbury also donated and installed a new inscribed plaque.



Extension to Period Property



Bakers of Danbury have recently completed a couple of new build extensions; one of which was an extension to a Grade II Listed property. The extension was constructed sensitively, to ensure it's in-keeping with the existing property. It consisted of a garden room, dining room and first floor bedroom with ensuite.

Bakers worked closely with the property owner throughout the build, to ensure they take part in all decision making. The extension was constructed to a high specification, with cornice designed to match the existing and new box frame sashes and french doors handmade in-house by the Bakers' joinery workshop. Ashlar lines were applied to the exterior render to match the exterior of the existing property.

The property was occupied whilst all works were carried out. To minimise disruption to the household; the extension was constructed, with the breakthrough to the existing house being carried out towards the end of the project.

The owners were so impressed with the work carried out, they asked Bakers to return to repair their storm damaged barn. Works to the barn are due to complete later this year.

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It has been a busy first half of the Year for Collins & Curtis. It has seen the completion of the Natural Stone supply to the Woolf Institute Building in Cambridge and Heydonbury House in Hertfordshire. Clipsham and Stoke Ground Basebed were supplied for these prestige projects. A further local new build, White Hall Farm, is nearing completion. We supplied all of the stone details in Cadeby stone, which is a first for us.



We have completed the second phase of the Harvest House Balcony replacement which has gone so well that we have been asked to bring next year's phase forward to this autumn. We have also recently replaced rusticated panels from the front of Lloyds Bank in Cheltenham with hand tooled Hartham Park Stone.

We have the final phase of Gonville & Caius to complete this summer and various Churches including Stotfold and St Albans Cathedral which recently won a RIBA East 2017 award for Conservation.



Photos of Woolf Institute, Harvest House Balcony and Lloyds Bank

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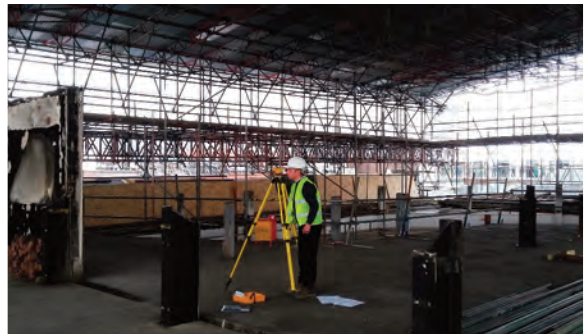
Pickford Builders through their strong links with the Ellipta Insurance Repair Network have secured the £1.8M rebuild scheme at Cecil Jones School in Southend. Pickford's originally carried out the make safe works following a serious fire at the school and was the chosen contractor to carry out the subsequent rebuilding project. The works are currently underway and Andy Nunn and his team are making good progress with the new structural steel frame which unusually is being added to the sound sections of the remaining framework via close co-ordination with the professional team.

Pickford builders are nearing completion of a £300,000 project; comprising of building two semi-detached properties at Church Walk - Sawbridgeworth. With just the externals to clean, the internal works have been completed to a very high standard. With a few difficulties at the start, the project was completed within budget and deadline with a mix of direct and sub contract labour.



The insurance team has just completed a record breaking year with turnover approaching £1.5m for the financial year to April 2017. This has provided significant challenges to all members of the team with the growth relating to a 40% increase on the previous year's sales. To accommodate the increase in workload a new insurance surveyor (Steve Donelan) joined Pickford Builders in January as part of the managed growth agreed by the current management team.

Looking forward the workload is still showing growth with the strong possibility of a surge within the subsidence sector the longer our hot summer continues which bodes well for all going into 2018.



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