

A foreword from Peter Smyth, Managing Director

On behalf of all of our Directors I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work, support and interest in Bakers of Danbury and its sister companies Collins and Curtis Masonry and Pickford Builders during the first half of 2021.

We have had the privilege to work on some beautiful historical buildings and homes. In addition to the interesting projects detailed in this newsletter we are working on a number of churches, schools, houses and other buildings which include, but not limited to the following:

- St Mary's Church, Wivenhoe - We are near completion of this new build church extension
- The Old Library - We recently started phase one of the restoration to the former library in Cambridge
- The Clockhouse - A complete refurbishment of a listed home and its clock tower
- Castledon School, Wickford - A large new build teaching block
- Goths Oak Barn - Alterations to a converted barn
- Days Farmhouse - Restoration and extensions to a listed farmhouse
- Icknield Cottage - Reconstruction of a thatched cottage devastated by a fire, using traditional materials
- St John's Church, Royston - We are working on phase three of the restoration of the fire damaged church
- Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge - Alterations to provide a self contained flat



I would like to congratulate the following people who after dedication and hard work have achieved the following qualifications:

- Dean Harvey (Contracts Manager) - Construction Contracting Operations Management (Level 6)
- Peter E Smyth (Contracts Manager) - Construction Contracting Operations Management (Level 6)
- Max Diaba (Safety, Health, Environment and Quality Manager) - Max has become a Chartered member of IOSH

If you would like to keep up-to-date with Bakers' latest projects, you can do so by visiting www.bakersofdanbury.co.uk

Top photo: St Mary's Church, Wivenhoe **Bottom photo:** The Old Library, Cambridge

House Renovation and Water Tower Conversion

Earlier this year, we completed the renovation and conversion of a four bedroom home in Cambridge. The project involved a renovation to the existing home and the conversion of its old water tower to provide a fourth floor with additional living space.

The existing bedroom below the water tower was remodelled to provide an additional w/c and shower room, new hallway and a new staircase to access the converted water tower. The timber stairs were manufactured by Bakers' in-house joinery workshop. The staircase handrail was of a contemporary design consisting of steel and oak.

To provide a balcony area for the converted water tower room, we installed steel supports and manufactured and fitted new doors to access the balcony. Our joinery workshop also manufactured and installed bespoke fitted cupboards along one wall of the converted water tower.

The house underwent a full internal and external redecoration. The two existing bathrooms were refurbished which included new tiling and sanitary ware. Eight new Accoya windows and other bespoke pieces of furniture were manufactured and installed by Bakers.

A full M&E package was installed which included full electrics and plumbing, new radiators and a new fire suppression system (with water sprinklers to meet fire regulations due to the conversion making the house a four storey building).



Bakers' Specialist Joinery Division

Bakers' in-house joinery workshop located next to the head office in Danbury, has been very busy taking joinery requirements from both Bakers and directly from clients. Current projects include:

- **Various window repairs and replacement**

We currently have a number of projects which involve the repair; or manufacture and fitting for replacement timber windows. For example, we recently stripped back and replaced full height timber bay windows in Beaulieu Park. We carried out box sash frame repairs and redecoration to the original sash windows in the old Marconi building in Chelmsford, which is now the headquarters for Benefit Cosmetics. We also carried out over 40 sash window repairs for our current project at The Old Library, Cambridge

- **Church door and servery units**

For St John's Church, Royston we have repaired an oak door after it suffered fire damage. We will be manufacturing two oak arched doors and carrying out repairs to existing doors, together with manufacturing a number of bespoke servery units and storage cupboards for a gallery

- **Bespoke AV desk in English Oak**

A bespoke desk was designed and manufactured to house the control panels for the audio visual effects in St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Brentwood

- **Bespoke fitted cupboards**

For St Paul's, Goodmays we recently designed, manufactured and fitted bespoke storage cupboards in English Oak



Top right photo: Full height replacement timber windows
Middle photos: Bespoke AV desk in English Oak
Bottom photos: Bespoke fitted cupboards in English Oak

Restoration of St Lawrence Jewry, London

Under instruction from The City of London Corporation, Bakers recently started a large restoration project at St Lawrence Jewry, which stands in the yard of the Guildhall. The 18 month project is designed to return the Church to a sound state of repair and safeguard it for future generations.

St Lawrence Jewry, the official church of the Lord Mayor of the City of London, was first built in 1136 in the east end of London - the old Jewish quarter. It was rebuilt in 1677 by Christopher Wren after it was destroyed in the Great Fire of London, and reconstructed by Cecil Brown in 1957 after it was badly damaged in the Second World War.



This project marks the largest phase of work to the building since the reconstruction by Cecil Brown in the 1950's. Many of the finishes to the roofs, gutters, cupola and spire date from then and are therefore towards the end of their service life, evidenced by the water ingress that has been an increasing problem in recent years. The surviving Wren masonry suffers from heavy carbon staining and discoloration along with a pattern of defects known as "corrosion jacking", caused by concealed iron cramps rusting, expanding and subsequently splitting and cracking the stonework.

The Church will remain open during phase one of the project. Phase one works will involve the cleaning and repair of the masonry elevations, tower and carved stonework; structural work, re-roofing and thermal upgrading of the lead covered Nave; re-roofing of the Commonwealth Chapel, Vicarage apartment and to the south-west of the tower; repairs to the timber framed, lead-clad cupola and spire; replacement of lead gutters and downpipes; overhaul, cleaning and repair of all stained and plain glass windows; replacement of lightning protection; and the repair and structural strengthening of decorative fibrous plaster ceilings. Phase two which is due to start next year will involve all internal works.

The Royal Geographical Society, London

The Royal Geographical Society's headquarters, located next to the Royal Albert Hall, is an iconic building in a prestige location that houses extensive historical collections of over two million maps, artefacts and other items, as well as providing academic and conferencing facilities. The Society recently instructed Bakers to undertake external repair and conservation works to the Lowther Lodge element of their headquarters.



Lowther Lodge boasts elaborate brickwork and is said to be one of the most important examples of Victorian brick façade in England. Its monumental central chimney is no exception; with a beautiful dragon motif incorporated within the English rubbed red brick construction. Amongst other works, we are carrying out important structural repairs and reinforcement including brick repairs to the beautiful central chimney, which had been supported by scaffolding for over two decades.

To ensure the safety and future of the ornate central chimney, we have structurally reinforced the chimney by using Cintec anchors which were installed internally to structurally support the chimney at the first and second floor levels. Structural reinforcement to the top section of the chimney has involved slightly more substantial steelwork. Upright rolled steel joists (RSJs) which each measure five meters, form part of the supporting framework which has been fixed to a lift shaft running through the centre of the building. Straps fixed to those RSJs will wrap around the chimney. The chimney bricks have been cleaned and repaired, and where they were found to be beyond repair, replaced with Bulmer handmade bricks to match the existing. Similar structural reinforcement works will also be carried out to the western chimney. The only part of the structural reinforcement visible from ground level will be the wrap around straps around the chimneys.



Bakers are also carrying out onsite repairs and refurbishment to several timber windows and external doors, together with replacing timber balustrade and lead roof coverings to three balconies. Refurbishment works are also being carried out to three metal casement windows as a sample for future refurbishment to other metal casement windows.



Top photo: The Lowther Lodge before works took place

Middle photo: A dragon motif on an ornate chimney before cleaning

Bottom photo: View of the Royal Albert Hall taken through the Royal Geographical Society headquarters

Design and Build School Projects

We are currently working on two design and build school projects. We began works on King John School, Benfleet in January. It involves a new build single storey extension to provide three offices, two drama studios, a classroom, well being room, curriculum plus centre room, together with an extension to the existing dining hall and the refurbishment of a number of maths classrooms and surrounding corridors.



The construction is of a steel frame with metal stud walls, a block and beam floor and a roof constructed from a steel deck with a three layer felt system. External works incorporate the fencing and lighting, level access ways to entrances, paving and drainage. A fully designed M&E package includes a new audio system and bolt ons to the existing fire and security systems. The project is phased with the maths classrooms, dining and common areas to be handed over at the end of August and the rest of the project set to be handed over at the end of October.



The other design and build school project we are currently working on is for Castledon Primary School, Wickford which involves building a large teaching block to house three classrooms, three group rooms, therapy & staff room, hygiene room, meeting room, calming room and four w/c including disabled w/c. The traditional construction consists of a single storey low bearing masonry on strip foundations, a block and beam floor and light weight timber flat roof with a single ply finish.



The fully designed M&E Package includes air source heat pumps and heat recovery units. The project began February this year and is due to be completed late October.

Top photos: Steel frame being delivered and construction taking place at King John School, Benfleet

Bottom photo: Masonry construction at Castledon Primary School, Wickford

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Firstly, we would like to welcome Rhys Harris who has joined us as Yard Manager and Project Coordinator.

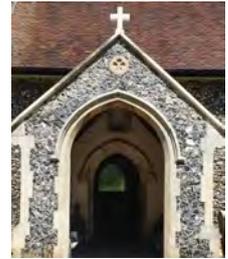
We have been experiencing difficulties obtaining good block from the quarries as extraction has not returned to normal levels. We have therefore had to explore new stone types with some success.

In the first 6 months of this year we have been busy supplying Cadeby stone sections for the continued restoration works to buildings in Lincolns Inn and Portland Basebed for Barkers in Kensington. We have supplied the stone for the cladding to the new flagship NatWest Bank in Bristol. This included all of the facade including plinths, columns and fascia all in Stoke Ground Basebed.

In addition we have supplied stone details for many Churches locally including copings and a new cross to St Mary's Church, Holton, Suffolk in Stoke Ground Basebed. We also replaced and repointed the flintwork to the facade below. We supplied Ancaster Hard White for a replacement arch to St Johns Church in Royston which is yet to be fixed and a new finial in Stoke Ground Basebed to sit at the top of the spire of St Andrews Church in Melton, Suffolk.

As always, we have supplied several fire surrounds and hearths in a variety of stones including one with an ornate carved lintel. We also supplied replacement quoins, jambs and window lintels in Clunch and new sills in York Stone for a private residence.

We have continued to supply stone for many banks all over the country, to fill voids where cash points have been removed, with stone types and details to match the existing.



Top right photo: A new finial in Stoke Ground Basebed for the top of the spire at St Andrews Church in Melton, Suffolk
Top left photo: New cross in Stoke Ground Basebed for St Mary's, Holton
Middle photo: Replacement quoins, jambs and window lintel in Clunch and new sills in York Stone for a private residence
Bottom left photo: Ornate hand carved fireplace lintel
Bottom right photo: Cadeby stone sections for the restoration works to buildings in Lincolns Inn

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We are busy working on a number of projects which include a full renovation to a vacant thatched cottage. In addition to a new bathroom, kitchen and full redecoration, we are installing new electrics, plumbing and heating system. We are also carrying out a rebuild to a semi-detached property after being devastated by fire which consumed the whole first floor and roof. We are also carrying out repairs to the fire damaged neighbouring property.

We recently completed an extensive redevelopment project for Colchester Engagement & Next Steps (CENS) to provide 17 single occupancy night shelter rooms, all with ensuite shower facilities, together with a new communal health and wellbeing room. CENS provides emergency accommodation, but sadly the shelter had to close its doors in March 2020 due to the twin bedrooms with shared facilities failing to be compliant with Covid-19 guidelines. To carry out works during the Covid pandemic, Pickford Builders implemented a risk assessment to ensure social distancing and other measures were introduced to prevent the risk of spread of Covid-19 amongst those working on the project.

To provide space for the extra ensembles, the existing rooms were remodeled and a small kitchen area and some large chimneys which ran through all floors were removed. The redevelopment project has not only made the accommodation Covid-compliant, but will provide more privacy and dignity for the residents, as they take their first steps towards independent living. The brand new health and wellbeing room will offer much-needed support for the mental and physical issues facing the residents.

Top photo: Full renovation of a thatched cottage
Middle photo: Rebuild of semi-detached house devastated by fire
Bottom photos: CENS single occupancy night shelter rooms with ensuite shower facilities



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