

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 over 2022. We have had the privilege to work on some beautiful historical buildings and homes again this year, some of which we have detailed in this newsletter.

Bakers' Unique Training Programme for Heritage Building Craftsmen

Since launching a new in-house training programme for Heritage Building Craftsmen to work within our Church department Alex Warburton and Aaron Harman-Day have begun their 18 months externally accredited on-site training. In the New Year we hope to recruit another two trainee Heritage Building Craftsmen. The trainees will work alongside a Bakers of Danbury experienced mentor to carry out their on-site training, structured around an NVQ level 2 qualification, externally accredited heritage building training and other core training which will include a variety of health and safety courses.

Leavers and New Starters

After 30 years of working for Bakers of Danbury, our Contracts Director Ant Wood has decided to leave the business to concentrate more on his other interests. I am pleased to advise that Dave Lillywhite has been appointed as Ant's successor within the church department. Dave has been working for Bakers of Danbury for over 30 years, so will make for a smooth transition.

We were also sad to say goodbye to Brian Cooper who retired last month, after serving 45 years with Bakers.

I would like to welcome Martin Bourke and Thor Gray-Moloney who recently joined Bakers' Insurance Repairs Department as Contract Managers.

On behalf of the Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. If you would like to keep up-to-date with Bakers' latest projects, you can do so by visiting www.bakersofdanbury.co.uk



Photos: Brian's surprise leaving do. Topping out ceremony at St Michaels Church Bishops Stortford in October 1977

Repairs to Bourn Mill, Cambridge

As Bakers of Danbury originally established as a "millwright, wheelwright and carpenter" over 140 years ago, it seemed only fitting that we were asked to carry out repairs to Bourn Mill in Cambridge.

Bourn Mill is the oldest surviving windmill in the UK, Grade I Listed and is designated as an Ancient Monument. The windmill is an open trestle post mill, with its whole body (which houses the machinery) mounted on a single vertical post, around which it can be turned to bring the sails into the wind.

The open trestle design means that the windmill's entire weight is supported on one central post, which is supported by a trestle. The timber trestle at Bourn Mill was rotten and in need of urgent repair. To carry out the repairs to the timber trestle we had to support the entire weight of the windmill to raise the buck.

Once the buck was raised by approximately 100mm clear of the main post, we replaced the rotten trestles with new, which had been constructed from air dried oak (minimum 4 years fallen). A traditional joint was formed by hand and held in place with iron brackets and rods. Whilst the buck was raised, we also constructed four replacement brick piers, which will need to cure for 28 days before the buck can be lowered and the weight of the mill placed on them.

Whilst the mill was closed to public to allow the repair works to take place, the general public enjoyed seeing the work in action during pre-arranged project tours which took place in July and August 2022.



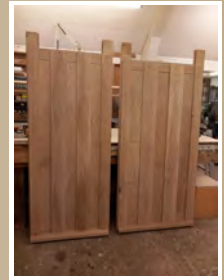
Bakers' Specialist Joinery Division

Our 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. All joinery and furniture our workshop manufactures is bespoke and is manufactured to the drawings and specifications provided.

Current projects include:

- **Private House**
We recently manufactured a pair of large gates, three flights of stairs and picket fencing in oak.
- **Youth Centre**
We have manufactured a large double set of entrance doors and a surrounding screen in soft wood which has a number of toughened laminated glass panes inset within it. We also manufactured a number of roof lights in softwood which will be opened mechanically.
- **Village Signs**
We recently refurbished the village sign for North Fambridge and carried out a refurbishment and replaced the post for village sign for Roxwell.
- **Bespoke Windows and Doors**
We are currently manufacturing a large number of bespoke windows and external doors for a number of private residences.

Top photo: Gates for a private house Bottom photo: Two external doors manufactured in Sepele



A Round Up of Awards Won in 2022

- Diaphoros Prize at the Georgian Group Architectural Awards 2022, Winner (Westminster School redevelopment and new build extension)
- Considerate Contractor Scheme Awards 2022, Gold Medal (conservation and restoration works to St Lawrence Jewry, London)
- DAC Design Awards Scheme 2022, Highly Commended (re-decoration of St Bartholomew Church, Wickham Bishops)
- DAC Design Awards Scheme 2022, Commended (extension and reordering to St Mary's Church in Wivenhoe)
- Greater Cambridge Design & Construction Awards 2022, Commended (conservation of the Former Library, Mill Road in Cambridge)



Photos: Westminster School, St Mary's Church in Wivenhoe and the Former Library in Cambridge

Refurbishment & Extension to a Period Property

We are in the final stages of a 12 month refurbishment and alteration project on a large period property in Essex. The project included the construction of one large extension to provide a sunroom, side porch entrance, boot room and ground floor cloak room.

The complete internal and external refurbishment of the property included new bathroom suites, a fitted kitchen, new feature bedroom ceilings vaulted with new oak trusses, new electrical plumbing, air cooling and mechanical systems installed, the dog room refurbished and the restoration of all brick fireplaces and original wood burning stoves. Bakers' in-house joinery workshop manufactured a new oak staircase which was installed to the first floor.

Externally the existing roof was carefully stripped, repaired and re-roofed using the salvaged peg tiles, supplemented with reclaimed. New metal windows were installed within the original window frames and some new wooden windows were manufactured by Bakers' in-house joinery workshop.

In addition to the refurbishment and alteration works to the property, we constructed a separate pool and plant building and are currently carrying out refurbishment works to the annex building. A large tractor shed was also constructed and other external works are still ongoing.



Restoration and Repair to St Lawrence Jewry, London

We are nearing the end of the conservation and restoration project at St Lawrence Jewry, which is located next to Guildhall. This project marks the largest phase of work to the building since the reconstruction by Cecil Brown in the 1950's after it was badly damaged in the Second World War.

Many of the finishes to the roofs, gutters, cupola and spire were 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 suffered 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 remained open during phase one of the project which involved cleaning and repair of the stone 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; repair and structural strengthening of decorative fibrous plaster ceilings; redecoration, repairs to the nave ceiling and commonwealth chapel and various upgrades to improve fire rating.

Phase two involved internal works including a fire rating upgrade and refurbishment of the vicarage & general office, a new mechanical and electrical installation, renewal of the boilers and flue arrangement, renewal of the air handling unit and heating system.

In May 2022, a group of over 50 SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) members took part in guided hard hat tours around the vestibule, nave and on the nave roof to see works taking place. The tour guides for the three tours were Julian Harrap, Andrew Coles and Judy Allen from Julian Harrap Architects.

Bakers of Danbury received a Gold Award at **The City of London's Considerate Contractor Awards 2022**. The City of London stated that decision was based on the overall performance of all personnel working on behalf of Bakers of Danbury during the past year on the site (St Lawrence Jewry).



Design and Build School Extensions

We are currently working on two design and build school extensions, which are both on-track to be handed over early next year.

At **Saint Martin's High School in Brentwood**, first we demolished an existing classroom demountable unit to make way for a new four classroom extension with unisex toilets and an office. This new build construction is timber framed and consists of high levels of thermal and acoustic performance.

The stand-alone building will be clad externally with a high quality fibre cement board and will have a simultaneous heating and cooling recovery unit. This energy efficient operation combined with a Zero hybrid ventilation system has low running costs and zero operational carbon. The 29 week project is on track for handover at the beginning of March 2023.

Early in the New Year, we are also due to complete a design and build extension at **Campion School in Hornchurch**. Having previously built an extension at Campion School, we returned to build a new build extension for the 6th form to create more teaching space for years 12 and 13. The project also included the remodelling and refurbishment to the existing 6th form, which was handed back to the school in September.

The new build extension consisted of piled foundations, steel frame and trespa cladding to the external walls. A two storey link was created between the existing 6th form building and the new 6th form extension with glazed external walls and a steel bridge at first floor level. An existing staircase was replaced with a new staircase and a platform lift including shaft was also installed.

Other external works included a masonry retaining wall to match existing, external paving, aco drainage and surface water drainage and the installation of 48m2 of glazed balustrading.



Top photo: Saint Martins High School

Bottom photos: Campion School



We have been busy again this year at Collins and Curtis, supplying stone products to a number of Clients, including our sister companies Bakers of Danbury and Pickford Builders.

Working from our purpose-built factory in Ipswich, Suffolk our masons produce high quality bespoke natural stone products from blocks of stone (up to approximately 4m3 and weighing 10 tonnes) which are cut to size using our primary, secondary and profiling saws. All work is hand finished in our workshop.

We have been supplying stone products for a refurbishment project at Lincolns Inn Fields - which is the largest public square in London - for over six months. We recently supplied a memorial plaque in Portland Basebed stone.

We continue to supply products in Park Lane bath stone for the ongoing restoration of St Osyth Priory. These stone products include a string course, buttress stones, window tracery and coping stones.

We recently supplied Portland stone copings and a parapet wall for Bakers of Danbury's project currently underway at St Lawrence Jewry in London.

Window mullions and stonework were supplied to another Bakers of Danbury project, this time in Barking. The stone products supplied were manufactured from Stoke Ground base bed.

Various stone products have been supplied over the past 12 months to a project on a large private estate in Norfolk. We expect to continue to supply stone products well into next year.

We recently supplied a stone memorial in Woodkirk stone for Capt. Jesse Jones and his family.



*Top two photos: Memorial for Capt. Jesse Jones and family
Bottom photo: Memorial plaque for Lincolns Inn Fields*

PICKFORD BUILDERS LTD
ESTABLISHED 1909

It has been another busy year for Pickford Builders. Please see below a summary of a couple of our most interesting projects:

Northwick Park Primary School in Canvey

We constructed a new build extension to provide additional teaching and staff space for the expanding academy school on Canvey Island.

As well as meeting the challenges of building on the Island, which sets a special requirement for foundation designs and future proofing for flood defenses; the new extension had to be carefully integrated with the existing building. The site team, overseen by Paul Rodwell, needed to work closely with the school staff to co-ordinate the successful and safe completion of the works, whilst operating alongside a school in full use. Both the client and designers at Yelland Architect Ltd were very pleased with the final outcome.



House Renovation

We recently carried out a full renovation and repairs to a home in Boxted, Essex. Works included internal and external plaster and wooden timber frame repairs which included external fascia boards, as well a full internal and external redecoration.

St John & St Giles Church, Great Easton

We recently carried out some renovation works to St John & St Giles Church which is near Great Dunmow. Works include the installation of a new wheelchair friendly footpath, as well as tiling and masonry repairs.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jenny Rimmer who has joined as Claims Co-ordinator for our busy Insurance department. Jenny will look after the Sedgwick Claim Management projects.

