



CGI courtesy of Bond Bryan

COLLEGE EXPANDS FACILITIES

AS WE WELCOME THE START OF A NEW YEAR, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE NEWS OF A SECOND PRESTIGIOUS CONTRACT WIN WITH MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE AS IT CONTINUES TO INVEST AND EXPAND ITS FACILITIES.

Last September our team commenced work on a design and build contract to extend the college's STEM Centre at its Middlehaven campus by 11,800 sq ft. The project, which received £2.7m of DfE funding, is being constructed to enable the college to deliver a higher level of technical training, as the sole deliverer of Institute of Technology (IoT) accredited courses in the Tees Valley.

Work on the building is progressing well with the steel framework now in place.

Adding to the growing number of further education projects we have delivered and cementing our relationship with Middlesbrough College we have recently been appointed to construct T Levels Digital Centre (Digital Centre), a new 580sqm three-storey facility on the college's Middlesbrough campus.

The centre, which has also benefited from DfE funding, will become home to specialist teaching spaces for media studies including subjects such as TV and film production as well as computer games.

Designed by Bond Bryan Architects, the building will be clad with a contemporary metal envelope and will include several elements of specialised mechanical and electrical installations to meet the needs of the intense building services provision associated with the digital subjects which are to be taught.

Speaking of this latest contract win, director, Martin Blight said: "We are delighted to have this further opportunity to work on behalf of Middlesbrough College as it seeks to continually improve its facilities to provide its students with the optimum learning experience.

"In 2019, Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen and Middlesbrough Mayor Andy Preston spoke about the start of a journey to transform Middlesbrough into THE digital city in the UK and we are very happy to support the region and the college in this endeavour."

Despite working within stricter guidelines brought in to keep construction going throughout the coronavirus pandemic, work on both schemes is scheduled to complete in time for the new academic year in September 2021.

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We have had an encouraging start to the new year, despite the difficulties imposed on our business operations by COVID-19.

We must all continue to pull together to get through what I hope, are the last few hurdles over the months ahead. Surgo is looking ahead confidently to the future, whatever it may hold.

We are fortunate, that as a long-established business, we benefit from loyal, supportive and flexible staff, who have a reputation for always going the extra mile for clients and colleagues. Long may it continue.

At the present time, our strong client relationships have seen us end 2020 with a healthy pipeline of enquiries and tenders as well as a couple of new projects, including the refurbishment of the Coroner's Court at South Shields Town Hall.

In the year ahead, there are proposals at government level to change public procurement processes following our departure from Europe, which would see many more public-sector contracts valued at up to £4m being managed locally, through local authorities.

Let us hope we benefit from some of these new opportunities and thanks to the millions of pounds of investment the government is pouring into the region for infrastructure, residential developments and green energy projects, this could facilitate a flow of higher value contracts too.

All that remains is to take this opportunity to wish you and your families the best of health in the year ahead and to implore you to stay safe and abide by the rules.

Hopefully, the way ahead will be clearer by Spring and we can all breathe a sigh of relief.

Kind regards,

Ian Walker
Chairman



NEWS IN BRIEF



CURRENTLY ON SITE

Maintaining government's strict COVID-19 industry guidelines, Surgo's dedicated team of construction professionals continue to pull out all the stops, ensuring that schemes remain on track. To that end, work is progressing well across the region on projects in the healthcare, social housing, further education and residential development sectors.

Working on behalf of MSD, one of the UK's leading biopharmaceutical manufacturers, we have already installed the steel framework and roof top plant room on a single storey extension at the company's manufacturing facility in Northumberland.

Continuing our growing relationship with Karbon Homes, one of the largest housing associations in the North East and Yorkshire, development of 19 two-bedroom bungalows on a logistically tight site is taking shape. The build to rent homes have been designed specifically for the 55s and over and will make a valuable contribution to the availability of affordable housing stock in Sacriston, Durham.

Our appointment to this scheme followed swiftly on the back of completion of refurbishment works for Karbon Homes at Links House, Hexham which has created office accommodation and 13- self-contained flats for Gap Supported Housing, a charity which focuses on ending homelessness.



LATEST RESIDENTIAL SCHEME GETS UNDERWAY

In January, adding to our growing tally of residential developments, we geared up to start work on behalf of private developer, Buchanan Estates.

This latest residential scheme, located in Acklington, Northumberland, will see us construct a development of 14 traditionally built homes comprising two detached bungalows, six semi-detached and six larger detached properties.

Similar to the way we have collaborated with Willow Homes NE, at Nursery Gardens, Stannington, which is almost complete, we are also providing the same support to Buchanan Estates by bringing together highly experienced sales and marketing teams who will promote and sell the properties on their behalf. The ability to offer this bespoke service is something that sets us apart from other contractors.

Groundworkers are currently on site preparing the ground ahead of construction works commencing early February.

PUTTING THE CUSTOMER FIRST

In Wallsend, work is nearing completion on the remodelling of North Tyneside Council's Customer First Centre, located in the heart of the town.

The aim of this project is to transform parts of the centre, to accommodate external partners, including the Police, for the benefit of the local community.





BIDDING A FOND FAREWELL

We always say our staff are our greatest asset and like to acknowledge their milestones. Recently two very long serving and truly dedicated staff decided it was time to put their feet up and retire.

Firstly, in October we bid farewell to Estimating Assistant and the absolute linchpin of the department Lin Duke. She won't mind us saying this but, with a work ethic many can only dream of, Lin worked way beyond her official retirement age providing vital support to the estimating team. She will be sorely missed not only within her role but also as keeper of the key to the drawer of delights – home to the company tuck shop, sadly another victim of COVID-19!

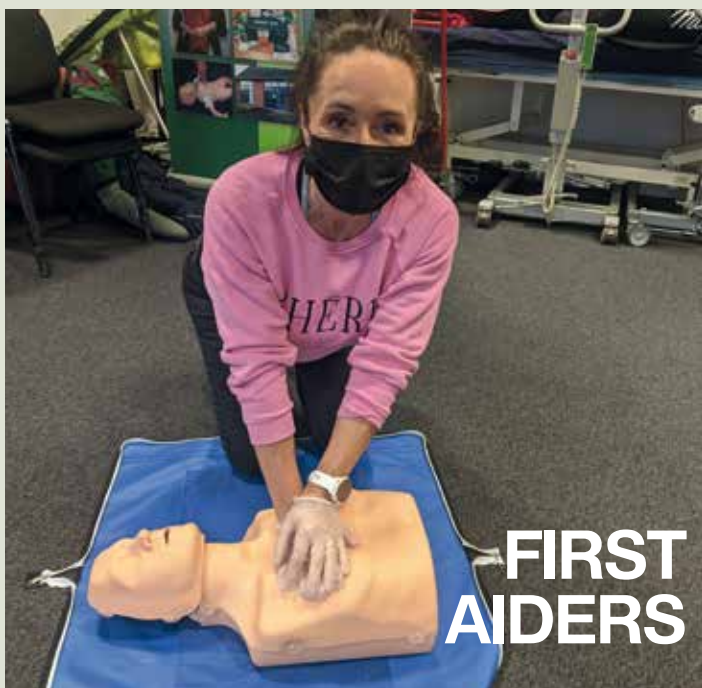
Secondly, in December, it was the turn of director, Jeff Alexander to head off to enjoy more time with his family. During his time with the company Jeff played a key part in developing the Surgo brand and supporting the region's wider construction industry in his various roles with the RICS, NCBF, CAN and Constructing Excellence North East.

Both had served the company for an impressive 31 years. The directors and staff wish them both well in their retirements.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Whilst many employees in the building have continued to work from home, the desire to donate and make a much-needed contribution to support the local community at Christmas was as strong as ever and we are delighted to say that £700 was raised for our chosen charity, Children North East.



Head office staff, Jeanette Gibson and Leigh Chelton both recently attended a one day training course to learn the basics of giving First Aid. As you can see from Jeanette's face covering, the training was provided in a COVID safe environment. Both passed their training with flying colours!