

# BENCHPRESS

It's a bit of a mixed bag of news and updates in this edition; the first of our brand new lorries is featured here and the second one will be on the road by the time you are reading this. Next, the two six leggers (apparently that is what you call the rigid lorries with double rear axles – 6 wheels) will be replaced, so our fleet will soon be looking a lot more presentable. Another of the photos on this page features Barry Lane, no not the sweaty one – that's me – I will explain later, Barry was promoted to Operations Manager, London Region in the New Year to work as Mark Byrne's number two and deputy but I forgot to announce the fact in the spring edition – sorry Barry. Other recent changes include Barry Page moving from Contracts Supervisor to Estimator and he is replaced in the London Contracts team by O'Jay Roynan, promoted from Site Manager. Vicky will be leaving in the autumn to expand her family, she is expecting a little boy this time, and so will be off on maternity leave again but this time, with two to look after, she will drop down to a part time role rather than return full time. Florence who has been our payroll Manager for ever it seems has also decided to retire just because she will be 70 - some people have no staying power ☺. We will have a new Hoist Division Manager joining Steve Crompton and his team in July and we are hoping to start another design engineer later in the year and one or two more office people to support our growth and cover for those leaving us. Now back to that photo of me; my T-shirt says *just do it* and I'm determined to finish the course even if it kills me, however I must admit to feeling slightly unnerved by the inappropriately high level of interest shown by my wife, Sue, as to where I keep my life insurance policies! Really I just wanted to prove that I am working hard in training for the London to Brighton charity bike ride with Team Benchmark on 17<sup>th</sup> September and at the same time give you all a nudge to make a donation at [www.justgiving.com/teambenchmark](http://www.justgiving.com/teambenchmark), it's for a good cause, Children with Cancer UK, I was really hoping we would get lots of £5 donations that would all add up and that is all I want you to send because we can all afford that much even though we work for Benchmark!



Moving on, if you have received this edition of Benchpress in the post, you will also have received a Construction Industry Helpline card. Bill Hill, a friend of mine, is the Chief Executive of the Lighthouse Club Construction Industry Charity and he is on a mission to get cards to the 2.1 million workers in our Industry. By us sending them out to you lot he is 300 closer to his goal and you will have a number you or your families can call for financial aid if in crisis, advice on occupational health and mental wellbeing, and support on legal, tax and debt management matters. Hopefully you will never need it but it's worth having it handy for you or another industry workmate.

Benchmark were again in the top 1 % of givers on the *just giving* website for the month May 17, this was also the case a couple of years back and may well happen more in the future as Benchmark are committed to giving 1% of their profits to charity and good causes each year. We are doing very well at the moment and it is only fair that we give something back.

Team Benchmark photos (London > Brighton) will appear in the autumn edition and hopefully we will have hit our target of raising £5,000 by then. If you visit our just giving page you can track how close we are getting to that figure. Enjoy the rest of the summer and again thanks for all you do to keep each other safe and to help maintain our good name in the Industry.



Regards, Rob West  
Managing Director



## BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING



*Setting the Standards*



# St Paul's Cathedral

The customer here was St Paul's cathedral itself, with Skyes carrying out the asphalt repairs to the stone Gallery. We have also erected some small platforms for Skyes not shown in the photos, over the stair access points. The scaffold for St Pauls consists of an access haki staircase, 36m high, clad in black cargo netting, this gives access to the lower roof, at this level we have a storage gantry; 12m long x 8m wide, this is constructed using aluminium Dax beams spanned over a lower roof. From the loading gantry we have a support tower; 6m long x 1m wide x 11m high (this required a temporary birdcage to be built up with it for support) up to the first balcony level with double 750 beams spanning across to support a lifting tower which is 5m long x 3m wide x 22m high, this tower supports a 7m running beam at the top, and a 3m running beam at the balcony level, each beam takes 500kg SWL.

Off the loading gantry we also have another haki staircase which is 33m high.

The scaffolders involved on this project were:

Paul Smith, John Docherty, Mitchell George, Matt Tiborcz, John Abella, Reg Izern & Mark Smith with work being overseen by Robbie Calvert and myself.

**Barry Lane— Operations Manager**  
London Region





# Larkhill Barracks

## Aspire Defence

The photo below shows the Aspire Defence development at Larkhill Barracks, near Stonehenge. These are the first 8 blocks of soldier's accommodation on this site which is part of our £3.5 million project, managed by Tony Kerrigan. This project has already won a monthly trade contractors safety award and passed a Carillion Check-the-Checker audit with no non-conformities. The second picture shows that Tony's men are not to be messed with because they have big guns!

**Peter Booth—Company Safety Manager**



## PAWS FOR THOUGHT

A new appointment has been made to the staff of the Northern Region.

This is Ewan who, being born on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016, is the youngest member of the team by quite a margin



He is primarily to be found within the estimating section where he looks forward to getting his teeth into things. His day starts with a favourite activity, reading his peemails, but his main function is rounding up.

Ewan will fit in well with the construction industry culture as believes that estimators should be seen but not "herd"!

Seriously though, I have had a dog before but it was some years ago. Jasper was also a Border Collie but the traditional black & white. Ewan's Mum is a black, white & red tri whist his dad is a red merle. Ewan himself is a red tri being red, ginger and white. The litter comprised another red boy, two merles & two black & white. He is a Derbyshire lad as he comes from Hulland Ward near Ashbourne.

Incidentally he is named after Ewan MacColl who was a big figure in the folk music revival of the 1960's. He wrote a few well known songs "Dirty Old Town" & "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face". He had a rather better known daughter Kirsty MacColl whose legacy includes the perennial Christmas favourite "Fairy Tale of New York" on which Kirsty sang with The Pogues.

As my musical taste is folkie I decided my dog would be called Ewan MacCollie!

**Paul Taylor—Estimating Director  
Northern Region**



## March Safety Award

The monthly safety award goes to Dave Harding on the Mount Anvil project, Kidderpore Avenue, for running the project exceptionally well in difficult circumstances.



Tony Kerrigan and his team at the Aspire Defence project at Larkhill Barracks won the trade contractors monthly safety award for February, for generally working in a safe manner throughout the project. They have been awarded £100 (matched by BSL) and a certificate by Richard Tindal, Aspire Defence Project Director.



## April Safety Award

The monthly safety award goes to Luke Orman for when being issued escape sets (Yorkshire Water) all the operatives that received these sets were also issued an information card. Luke kept his card and also informed the BSL management that the sets were due for a yearly service.

## May Safety Award

The monthly safety award goes to Bob White, at the Aspire project, Larkhill for winning the individual monthly safety award for April and giving a presentation to the bricklayers on how to work safely and not interfere with scaffolds.



Mount Anvil, Kidderpore Avenue site, BSL operatives and managers came top of the safety league table for May. All the operatives on site received a breakfast from Mount Anvil and the photo shows Richard Charmers, Project Manager shaking Dave Harding BSL Site Manager's hand showing his gratitude for their efforts.





# Can you answer the following Riddles



1. What belongs to you but others use it more than you do?
2. What has a heart but no other organs?
3. There was a plane crash every single person died. Who survived?
4. What 4 letter word can be written forwards, backwards or upside down and can still be read from left to right?
5. Rearrange the letters: NOR DO WE to make one word.
6. It's more powerful than God. It's more evil than the devil. The poor have it. The rich need it. If you eat it you'll die. What am I?
7. What 8 letter word can have a letter taken away and it still makes a word. Take another letter away and it still makes a word. Keep doing it until you have one letter left. What's the word?
8. What has a head, a tail, is brown and has no legs?
9. David's father has 3 sons; Snap, Crackle and .....
10. I travel all over the world, but I always stay in my corner. What am I?

Answers on the back page

## Local projects

One of our initiatives as a company this year was to sponsor local projects. It was unanimously decided by Hitesh our Financial Controller that this year we should sponsor T Shirts to a local mainly voluntarily led community based Saturday School SKLPC. This school which is open to all provides Children from the age of 4 various opportunity's to learn about the rich Indian Culture to supporting them through their GCSE studies. By providing supplementary studies and career advice.

He also confesses that his Wife and Children who are volunteers and students themselves at this School had no bearing in influencing his decision. I also said in the same breath, is that a Pig Flying outside my office window. ☺



## LAING O'ROURKE,

It's probably unusual for a company newsletter to feature toilets as a subject worthy of reporting on!

## MEADOWHALL

## REMODELLING

We will, however, ignore that convention and press on.

Benchmark Scaffolding has been engaged by Laing O'Rourke to assist with the work to modernise the existing Meadowhall Shopping Centre which sits alongside the M1 Motorway in Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

This thorough remodelling process precedes an even larger project to construct an extension which it is hoped will begin during 2018.

As part of the current works the existing toilets are being upgraded and this requires each facility to be taken out of service sequentially for several weeks – a sort of toilet rolling programme!

In lieu (or loo!) of the existing ones and, so as not to inconvenience (pun intended) the shoppers, temporary toilet units have been located adjacent to the nearest external doors. We have erected ramps, walkways and canopies to them and, whilst not wishing to put ourselves on a pedestal, it's fair to say people have been flushed with the success of our efforts! Alongside these words are several "carefully selected" images of the various installations.

Congratulations to Keith Lawson, Matt Wilkinson & their team of scaffolders and to Joe Laffar for the designs.

**Paul Taylor—Estimating Director**  
Northern Region





# Peregrine Falcon Houses of Parliament

Doug Keady & Dave Carpenter helped to save a Peregrine Falcon chick that had got stuck on the perimeter security fence barbed wire and was being attacked by crows .

Between them they managed to keep the crows away ,then Dave got the Falcon down from the barb wire and kept it in a cardboard box with air holes in until the police arrived to take over .

The police also thanked the lads and said well done.

Danny McCarthy— Project Manager/Houses of Parliament  
London Region



You were in the top 1% of donors for May



## JustGiving



I mentioned on the front page that we received this message from **JustGiving**. It says Rob in the message but this was because we use a credit card in my name to make the various donations to good causes – it should read **Benchmark Scaffolding**.

Rob, you were in the top 1% of donors for May



You were one of the most generous donors on JustGiving in May. Out of 744,877 donors, you were in the top 1%!

Thank you so much.

Share this achievement with your friends.

Our mission is to not only "Set the Standards" but to progressively and continuously raise them across all aspects of our business.

Our vision is to be the scaffolding contractor of choice to our customers and employer of choice to our people.



If you've recently had a new addition to your family,  
or have a birthday coming up  
send us a photo to the Barnsley office  
and we'll make sure we show them in the next edition.  
Or you could email us:

**barnsley@benchmarkscaffolding.com**

# The Pink Avengers ARE BACK

We're off again fighting for a good cause on  
Sunday 16th July 2017 we will be joining  
lots of other ladies around Pontefract  
Race Course raising money for  
Cancer Research UK.



My team this year comprises of myself and my two  
children Macie & Kori.

This charity is close to me and my family, which most of you will already  
know, if you can help us in anyway raise as much money as we can please  
visit our fundraising page at:-

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/georginas-race-for-life-34>

Georgina Bradbury—Office Manager  
Northern Region

Eamonn and Lynda Golledge, who were recently married (Congratulations),  
joined us at Royal Ascot recently where we were entertaining a few of our  
special customers. Eamonn was just *pointing out* "don't you dare put this in  
Benchpress when I have this headwear on" ... so obviously here it is!



## Answers to the Riddles

1 - Your name, 2 - A deck of cards, 3 - Married couples, 4 - Noon, 5 - One Word, 6 - Nothing, 7 - The 8 letter word is  
STARTING. Starting, string, sing, in, I, 8 - A penny, 9 - David, 10 - A stamp

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*Setting the Standards*