



BENCHPRESS



Merry Christmas



Well I expect you may be wondering why we have a photograph of a Scotsman in traditional dress on our front page. No, it's not me, it's John Rooney who has been a driver with us at the Hanwell Branch for many years, decades in fact, but he recently reached his 60th birthday and felt the need to mark the occasion by coming to work in his kilt! Note the other PPE is still being worn.

Now, back to business, 2017 has been a good year for the Company – our most successful ever in fact. We have again increased sales, this time breaking through the £20 million barrier, and also posted pre-tax profits of £1.6million despite a challenging environment following the Brexit vote. We have invested in new materials, upgraded our unique filon system roof, purchased new Hoists, Lorries, vans, and cars, and reduced the disappearing core debt further, which remains from the buyback of the Company 5 years ago. We also managed to donate the 1% of our profits to charity as we said we would earlier in the year. The order book is strong and we look forward to 2018 and beyond with confidence.

In the Autumn Benchpress we said goodbye to some old friends who have retired but we now welcome to the family, Amanda in Payroll, and Tanya on our front desk, as well as my son Harry who is helping in accounts for a few months before going to University. Another West whom a lot of you know already, Maria, now covers for Vicky, as Company Buyer and PA to me, whilst Vicky is on maternity leave (see Clark on the back page) and for Florence as payroll Manager. In January we will welcome Ali Khan as design Engineer to further strengthen our already famous engineering department.

Finally I would like to thank the lads from Barnsley who have travelled down to London Region to work, for a good few months now, while we backfill the gap left by the loss of the Yorkshire Water contract. As I have said before we had this work for ten years and it accounted for about 50% of the Northern Regions turnover. The loss of this turnover has taken time to replace and by travelling south these men have enabled those that remained to be kept in work as the order book was refilled from other customers. We peaked at 18 men living and working alongside their Southern (softy©) cousins and now we know that most, if not all, will be recalled to the North after Christmas as we are now getting really busy up there. I know that the Managers in the London Region do not want to let them go and I am really pleased to hear that – we are one Company and we stick together.

I will sign off as I did last Christmas by again thanking you all for your continuing loyalty and commitment and by wishing you and your families a **Happy and Healthy New Year**.

Regards,
Rob West – Managing Director

BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING



Setting the Standards



Building Better Barnsley



THE
GLASS
WORKS
MARKET

Following 11 months of demolition work the new blockwork has started to go up this month on the Barnsley town centre regeneration project "Better Barnsley". We are delighted to be working with Henry Boot Construction on this very important scheme for our local community.

The Benchmark Site Manager Carl Payling and his team have been commended by the Henry Boot project team for doing an excellent professional job. With all the scaffolders living within a 3 mile radius of the project it is benefiting the local economy and reducing environmental impact of traveling from outside the region.

The Glass Works project is the first phase of the £100m development which is being funded by Barnsley Council and it is to be completed by 2020.

The Glass Works will provide 25 shops, 6 of which are MSU's (medium shopping units), a cinema, bowling alley and 10 restaurants. These, combined with a new library with community facilities, refurbished markets, new public realm and up to 500 car parking spaces sit within a 3.8 hectare site in the very heart of Barnsley Town Centre.

Billy Wood—Operations Director
Northern Region

October Safety Award ★

This month's award goes to Steve Savill, Mace project, BBC, nominated by Will Tyerman Mace manager. Across Plot A, especially on the roof, Steve has a proactive approach to H&S and over the last few months has raised multiple observations or hazards and brought them to the attention of Mace management. Additionally Steve is always observed working in accordance with his approved safe system of work, and fully conforms to Mace PPE requirements and tool tethering policy, which is especially important when working in high risk environments such as hoist run offs and risers. He was also awarded £50.

Mount Anvil, Hampstead Manor, Benchmark have now been on top of the leader safety board for 5 months in a row winning the September award.

November Safety Award ★

The monthly safety award goes to Kat Moisa, London based driver, on a recent visit to Parliament Mark Byrne noted our driver working perfectly and exactly to the method statement and there was nobody on site to impress. (Except Mark but he was hiding) ☺

Crowdfunding on JustGiving

Wayne Evans worked with our Northern Region up until about four years ago and had served Benchmark Scaffolding for half his working life. He recently underwent a long operation in Sheffield's Royal Hallamshire Hospital for the removal of a brain tumour which, had it gone untreated, would have proved fatal within the next few weeks.

The problem first manifested itself in the form of headaches turning to migraines over the previous eight weeks. Scaffold instructor Steve Gregory, a friend and former Benchmark colleague of Wayne's, suggested he get his eyes checked. Good advice indeed as it turned out. The optician recommended a visit to Barnsley A&E who, in turn, despatched him to Sheffield amid light and sound effects! The so called "blues & two's".

Over the ensuing weekend Wayne was posting to social media in brave and humorous tones. Even on the morning of the operation was sending photographs of himself in a hospital gown – see the evidence alongside, he always wears shirts which are too small!



Wayne underwent the surgery on Monday 27th November and, at this time; it is believed 80% of the tumour was removed. He is in good spirits and determined to fight his way through.

He wishes to embark upon a course of treatment that is, currently, not NHS funded and a crowdfunding page has been established to assist in the raising of the necessary funds. We are sure many friends and colleagues will wish to demonstrate their support by donating and the place to do so is:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wayne-evans-scaffolder

**Paul Taylor—Estimating Director
Northern Region**



Benchmark Training

During the year of 2017 Benchmark Scaffolding has delivered 267 individual training events to its people culminating in a total of over 600 days of training at a cost to the company of around £300,000. This does not include the tool box talks of which we have carried out over 7,500.

The different courses we carry out are many and varied as we aim to meet the requirements of our customers and exceed them where possible. We believe these are very impressive figures of which we are very proud.

We have a fully trained work force and like to be at the top of our game. This is also reflected in the quality of customers that we engage with and the excellent scaffolding that we erect. We will continue to train our operatives to the highest standard as we remain determined to keep ourselves amongst the leading scaffolding companies in the country.

Peter Booth—Company Safety Manager



Lendlease International Quarter London



Stratford Development

Lendlease writes

We are creating London's new destination for progressive business. With an abundance of green space and fresh air, access to some of the world's most forward-thinking cultural institutions and a workplace design that has employee wellbeing at its heart, the International Quarter London gives people a place to move, breathe and think.

The project will deliver four million sq. ft. of Grade 'A' office accommodation, 333 new residential units and community facilities within a 22 acre (c.9 hectare) site.

Almost one million sq. ft. is already pre-let

Over 25,000 people will work in the area when complete

The FCA and TfL will occupy the first two buildings totalling c.800,000 sq. ft.

The innovative workspaces are designed by world class architects, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners. The project is led by an international development team with a track record of delivery.

Connectivity - With more trains per hour than Waterloo or Victoria at peak times, access to all major airports in less than 60 minutes and a direct link to Cycle Superhighway II, the International Quarter is London's best connected new business district.

202 trains will pass through Stratford per hour at peak via underground, overground, mainline and DLR services. All of London's major transport hubs will be accessible within 35 minutes. Every London airport will be reached in 60 minutes or less with London City reached in 14 minutes. Stratford International provides Southeastern high speed rail services to the east and south east, connecting Ashford, Kent and beyond and St Pancras to the west.



Wellbeing - Buildings designed with wellbeing in mind, combined with Stratford's unrivalled sporting facilities, green open spaces and outstanding transport connectivity will create the healthiest, most connected environment for staff to lead a balanced lifestyle.

100% fresh air to all workspaces - close to all of the world-class Olympic amenities

Workplaces feature visible staircases, outwardly facing great vistas, with an allowance for increased natural daylight

Lendlease UX will help businesses deliver workplace solutions that improve wellbeing such as 'anti-stress' spaces and activity based working to increase agility.

Drawing on Lendlease's global workplace design expertise, International Quarter is transforming how we work by providing workspaces that are inspiring, adaptable and designed to accommodate more agile ways of working. Workplaces are designed to visually and spatially connect employees and encourage communication, collaboration and innovation. International Quarter will be the most sustainable office development in London, designed, delivered and operated with sustainability at its core.

Technology - Unrivalled digital and mobile infrastructure ensure International Quarter is equipped to meet forward-thinking businesses' technology needs-now, and into the future. International Quarter uses the digital infrastructure that Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park put in place to seamlessly broadcast the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. Each building is served by multiple power grids ensuring International Quarter's electrical HV infrastructure is highly resilient. International Quarter will offer ultrafast connectivity, enabling people to work anywhere.

The Stratford Area - Stratford is fast becoming the capital's most desirable place to work, live and socialise. Westfield Stratford City - Europe's largest urban shopping centre with 1.9 million sq ft of retail and leisure space, over 250 shops, 80 cafes, bars and restaurants, a cinema, 24hour casino and a range of hotels. The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park - a new area of green space the size of St James's Park - 2.5 sq km of easily accessible parkland with more than 2,000 new trees and 300,000 wetland plants. Five world class sporting venues - The Olympic Stadium, London Aquatics Centre, the Copper Box, Lee Valley VeloPark and the Hockey and Tennis Centre.

A place for people to live - almost 16,000 homes are under development within a 15 minute walk 35 km of new cycle ways and footpaths. International Quarter London is where the future works.

Lendlease engaged Benchmark Hoists and Scaffolding to provide a complete design solution due to the need for Hoisting and independent access.

Benchmark Hoists were awarded packages on Plots S5 and S6 the first commercial plots at the International Quarter, notably 20 storey and 12 storey developments respectively.

Both plots required independent access and Hoisting – generally this comprised twin Hoists on Plot S6 utilising twin AlimakHek 650 Passenger/Goods Hoist FC 30/39's and Plot S5 twin AlimakHek 650 FC 30/39's and combined with a big cage FC 25/50XL 2.0m wide version Passenger/Goods Hoist to facilitate the larger cladding panels. The FC 25/50XL Hoist being an extended height hoist –



Benchmark fleet includes 2 number 2.3m height 2.0m wide FC 25/50's, but this new hoist has a whopping 2.8m internal height facilitating the biggest load carrying capability.

The AlimakHek ALC2 automated call system was included with landing call stations at each level enabling site operatives to call the Hoists and the Alimak's responding on a call and collect basis further improving site efficiency.

On both plots there was an independent haki staircase adjacent to the Hoists serving ALL levels. The Hoists and Haki were located in one bay minimising the impact on the building as the building envelope was closed and made water tight by the cladding system.

The external Hoists were installed on a stage climb basis to follow the structural build program and a strict maintenance program to ensure reliable service throughout the busy construction and fit out phases.

Benchmark Scaffolding have supported Lendlease and ALL site trade contractors providing a single source supply on both projects S5 and S6.

Completion on Plot S6 (12storey) has been achieved and S5 is nearing completion – the Hoists have now all been dismantled from site, but Benchmark Scaffolding still have a big part to play supporting Lendlease and other trade contractors on site.

This is a further clear example of Benchmark Hoists securing the package to include associated Hoist related scaffold works, which subsequently develops in to a site wide scaffold supply agreement.

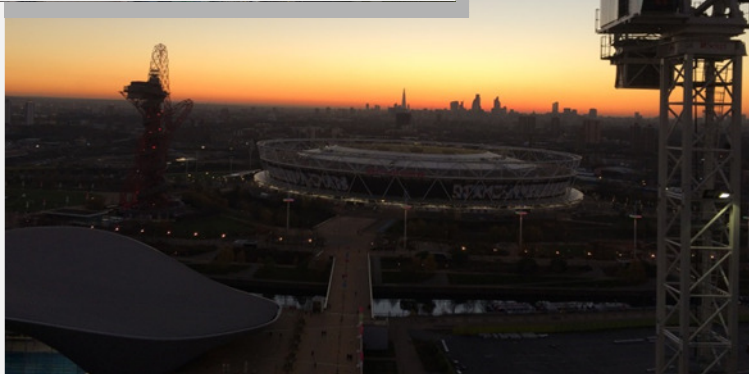
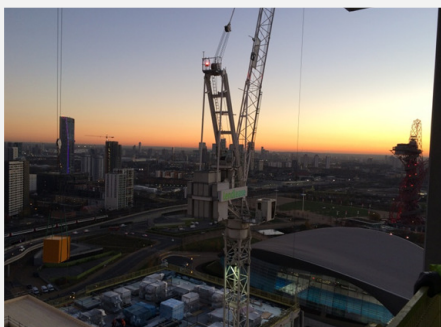
AND another stepping stone in Benchmark Hoists development – 2016 saw major business growth and investment with AlimakHek recognised as world leading hoist manufacturer in terms of innovative, quality product. Combined with other projects secured orders were placed for 5 further FC 30/39's and 1 FC 25/50XL Hoist representing close to £1.5m investment in new product.

We are pleased to say that Benchmark Hoists have now signed a further contract with Lendlease to supply Hoists and Haki systems on the next phase at IQL, plot S9 another 9 storey commercial development.

This replicates the same system employed on both S5 and S6 utilising the FC 25/50 XL 2.0m wide x 2.8m height car twinned with a FC 1.5m wide car extended to 5.0m long – the XL being the big load carrier and the 1.5m car primarily the passenger hoist.

Why change a successful partnership – safe to say Lendlease have the confidence in the quality product and service provided by Benchmark.

**Steve Crompton—Sales Director
London Region**



QUIZ TIME

1. What do you put on the table, cut, pass round but never eat?
2. Approximately how many bricks does it take to complete a brick house in England?
3. At Christmas what type of candle burns longer - beeswax or tallow?
4. What five letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
5. When is the best time to buy a canary?
6. You go in through one hole but you come out through three. When you are inside you are ready to go outside but when you are outside you are still inside. What am I talking about?
7. What has a head every night but loses its head during the day?
8. What can you put into a cup that you cannot take out?
9. What is the best stocking filler at Christmas?

Answers on page 8

RIDDLES

- A. I am tall when young and short when I am old. What am I?
- B. I disappear every time you say my name. What am I?
- C. I have a face but no eyes, hands but no arms. What am I?
- D. Poor people have it. Rich people need it. If you eat it you die. What is it?
- E. What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment and never in one thousand years?
- F. What can you catch but not throw?
- G. If an electric train is travelling south, which way is the smoke going?
- H. Which weighs more, a pound of feathers or a pound of bricks?
- I. How many months have 28 days?

Answers on page 8

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

HAPPY ★ NEW YEAR

Congratulations • Meet



Vicky

on the birth of Clark born on 26th October
at 8.53pm and weighed 7lbs 4oz.



Barnsley's



"new" edition

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

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

Answers to the quiz
1. A deck of cards. 2. To complete the house—just one. 3. Neither burns longer: they both burn shorter. 4. Short. 5. When it is going cheap. 6. A sweater (or jumper). 7. Your pillow. 8. A crack. 9. A leg.
Answers to the riddles
A. A candle. B. Silence. C. A clock. D. Nothing. E. The letter M. F. A cold. G. There is no smoke, it's an electric train!
H. Neither, they both weigh one pound! I. All 12 months!

Contact Numbers & Offices

West London Office

Waterside Trading Centre, Trumpers Way, Hanwell, London W7 2QD

Tel: 020 8867 9977 Fax: 020 8867 9900

Email: info@benchmarkscaffolding.com

Northern Region Office

Max Darby House, Valley Road, Station Road Industrial Estate, Wombwell, Barnsley, S73 0BS

Tel: 01226 755 922 Fax: 01226 755 166

Email: barnsley@benchmarkscaffolding.com

BENCHMARK SCAFFOLDING

Setting the Standards