



GMP Operations Building East Manchester

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Welcome to the latest edition of Insite, the newsletter of Conlon Construction.

As you read on you will see that we have had another very exciting year, filled with celebrations, project completions, contract awards and community activities.

I always try to open this annual round up with something cheering and upbeat but 2020 has made this more challenging than usual. Without a doubt, memories of 2020 will be dominated by the impact of the Covid-19 virus upon all of our lives.

At an early point in the Government's decisions on how to combat the virus, construction was designated an essential industry. Whilst this may have seemed strange to some, it served as a reminder to many of how much the industry contributes to the UK economy. Our industry employs around 3 million people, 10% of all employed in the UK; output is approximately £110 billion per annum or 7% of our national GDP. I have made a point of quoting these statistics simply to remind us all of the importance of our industry and those employed in it.

On behalf of the board of directors and the Conlon family I now wish to extend thanks to all our colleagues. By colleagues I refer not only to employees of Conlon Construction but those of our whole supply chain. We thank them all for the way they have risen to the challenges 2020 has brought.

Having always had a proud health and safety ethos, our teams were well prepared for these challenges. Our usual systems of work have had to be adapted to ensure social distancing; the introduction of one-way systems; meetings via online platforms; and working remotely. These changes have been hard to adapt to but we wish to thank all of our colleagues for their willingness to embrace them. Even though our industry wasn't applauded on Thursday evenings, I hope you will agree all of our fellow workers should also be recognised.

If I could now turn to matters more close to home there are still, even in such a difficult year, numerous events to celebrate. Awards are always welcome both for the whole company and especially for the project teams given particular recognition.

In what proved to be possibly the last large-scale event in the North West prior to 'lockdown' - the **Red Rose Awards** - we were proud to be recognised as 'Construction Business of the Year' and best in the County for 'Corporate Social Responsibility'.

Once again our teams shone in the **Considerate Constructor Awards**. We should never take this for granted and those involved truly deserve the national recognition that these awards represent. We received: Gold Awards for 'The Peterloo Memorial' and 'Cravenside Care Home'; Silver for 'Our Town Hall', Manchester and Bronze for 'Favordale' and 'Olive House' Care Homes. We have now been recognised in these awards, which celebrate our nation's most considerate contractors, for eleven years running!

As I close, there are two colleagues mentioned below to bring especially to your attention.



It is with great sadness I have to note the passing, in April, of one our long term and well-loved colleagues, Alan Smith. Alan joined in 1998 and served 20 years with the company. As a Site Manager, shall we say, he used his dry sense of humour to good effect and, having been a joiner by trade, he 'took no prisoners'. Alan loved music and could talk about the most amazing, virtually unknown, bands with great knowledge and obvious love. He was one of the first people I knew to get into digital recording just because of his love of music. I will guarantee that few of us knew Alan was 'A Kentish Lad'. That's right. The biggest Preston North End fan you ever met was born in

Kent! Unfortunately, only a few people could attend Alan's funeral service due to COVID-19, so many of his colleagues formed a line of honour along the driveway to the crematorium to pay their respects. Our thoughts are with his wife, Hilary and family.



In November, after 42 years of loyal service, Graham Livesey decided to hang up his hat and retire. His final project was the GMP Operations Building in East Manchester.

Due to his legendary eye for detail and excellent construction knowledge, Grahame became known as 'Mr Millimetre'. He was presented with the company's Outstanding Service Award in February this year in recognition of the significant contribution he has made to Conlon's reputation over four decades.

He will be very much missed and we wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement with his wife, Julie, and his family.

Charity of the Year

This year, our chosen charity is Lancashire Mind, which supports mental health awareness. The charity is dedicated to making a difference to the mental health of people living and working locally. This year, we have highlighted mental health awareness within the Construction Industry, especially during these particularly challenging times.

In recent years, 13% of suicides were construction workers, despite construction accounting for only 7% of the

national workforce. The industry is still male dominated, although we are trying to change this, and we are improving communication through workplace wellbeing coaching, mental health first aiders and targeted mental health campaigns.



Contract Awards

Below is a selection of projects we are pleased to have been awarded



Blackpool Showtown Museum

The Showtown Museum is due to be based in the Sands Hotel venue and will be a 2,500m² fun and interactive museum showcasing why Blackpool is famous. The works will include the fit-out of the shell and core space within the existing building.



National Football Museum, Manchester Works include internal refurbishment and the upgrade of M&E services including the removal and replacement of air handling units and other existing facilities.



Altrincham Grammar School

Works include the construction of a new sports hall, 4 classrooms and associated changing facilities. The works also consist of the conversion of the existing first floor gymnasium and changing rooms to teaching spaces and staff facilities. The school will remain open throughout the refurbishment works.



Mereside Respite Centre, Blackpool The building will comprise state-of-the-art assisted technologies to deliver step-down, respite and short-stay care to support those with learning or physical disabilities to retain their independence.



Blackpool Enterprise Zone Sports Pavilion

The project comprises the construction of a single-storey 675m² changing and spectator facility. The works also include the reconfiguration and extension of the existing car park, as well as alterations to the existing access road. The project is part of Blackpool's Enterprise Zone adjacent to the airport.



NHS Shared Business Services

We are delighted to have been appointed to Lots 2&3 of the Public Sector Construction Works NHS SBS framework, North West region. The lot value bands range from £2.5 to £15m. The total value of the framework is £30bn. It will include projects such as healthcare, education, blue light, leisure and industrial & commercial buildings.

Current Projects

Some of the major projects we are working on this year



Oldham Climbing Centre This project, funded by the Stoller Charitable Trust, consists of the construction of a 1,800m² two-storey climbing centre with three climbing walls, retail and café facilities. The centre is to be built to Olympic standards and, once completed, the walls will be amongst the very best in the country.



Stockport School

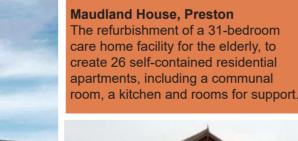
Works to the school include the full strip and replacement of the existing roof, upgrading of electrical installation, extensive re-pointing and upgrading of internal decorations.

All works are being carried out within the live environment of a busy school.



Woodford Garden Village Primary School

We are due to construct a new 2,300m² 1FE D&B primary school for Stockport Council, on behalf of Redrow Homes. A 2FE extension will be added as a second phase.





Briercliffe Primary School, Burnley This project will create additional classrooms, a studio hall and a new entrance to the Early Years Foundation Stage and MUGA pitch.



Holy Apostles and Martyrs Church, Wallasey

Works to this Grade II listed church include the re-roofing of the main building, brickwork pointing, replacement of windows and internal floor finishes.



Bamber Bridge Police Station Works consist of the comprehensive refurbishment of this two-storey Police Station. Works include the demolition and refurbishment of significant areas of the building, as well as some structural and internal repairs. The station will remain live throughout the project.

Skelmersdale Police Station

This project includes the full refurbishment of a five-storey 2,300m² building to provide a flexible working environment for building users. We are renewing M&E and data installations and re-cladding external facades.

We are also carrying out the

demolition and rebuilding of the annex facilities.



Completed Projects

Some of the major projects we have completed in 2020



GMP Operations Building, East Manchester Construction of a new, 2,500m² operations building for Greater Manchester Police was completed in November. The building consists of open plan offices, training facilities and staff amenities. A new entrance was created to improve access to the site.



Lancaster University Sports Centre This project consisted of a 1,500m² extension to the existing sports centre to generate a large sports hall, complete with external landscaping, drainage attenuation and car park.

We have completed four projects for the DfE this year:-



The Orchards School, Manchester The works comprised the D&B of a 2,500m² 96-pupil, new-build modular special educational needs and disability school. The school provides small classroom sizes for up to 8 children. The school included an Early Years Foundation Stage nursery, hydrotherapy pool, a sensory room and garden. Hazel Grove Primary School, Stockport This project included repairs and refurbishment to the existing school, which included new ICT facilities, a kitchen, re-roof and new windows.

Cheadle Primary School, Stockport

This refurbishment project included new windows, reroofing and re-modelling of the school's internal layout.



Gorton Primary School, Manchester A new 2,300m² D&B, 2FE, 420-place primary school and nursery. The project was completed 1 month ahead of programme, despite the adverse effects of Covid-19. Works were carried out adjacent to a primary school which remained live throughout.



Avondale Unit, Royal Preston Hospital The works included the conversion of existing facilities into a new, 14-bed mental health rehabilitation ward to the ground floor of the Avondale Unit at Royal Preston Hospital.







MMU Ormond Building, Manchester

This project involved the comprehensive refurbishment and remodelling of the beautiful Grade II listed building. Works included a full re-roof, new M&E installation and new finishes throughout, to create office accomodation for the Vice Chancellor and the university staff.

Conlon in the Community

Extracts from our Social Value activity calendar are highlighted below



CSR Activities carried out pre-Covid19:-

Barton Clough



Careers talk at Eden Boys School CSR Manager, Neil visited the school in February to advise pupils about careers in construction, including project management, architecture and engineering.



School Visit In March, SHE Manager, Ian, Customer Care Manager, Clare and Charlie Conlon (Administrator, Oliver) visited Barton Clough Primary School to talk to the children about how to keep safe around a building site.

Lancaster & Morecambe College Visit

Construction and engineering students from the college were joined by Neil in January, discussing what it is like to work within the construction industry and the various career opportunties available.





Coins for Curry

Inspired by Shaun's leftover Lamb Bhuna from the night before, QS, Natalie & Site Manager, Shaun formed a Curry Collective at our MMU Ormond Building project. Armed only with spatula; apron; crock-pot and a fistful of spices, they began cooking up a storm. Over the next 3 nights they knocked up

curries; samosas; and naan breads. Over £2,000 was raised for The Annabelle Rose Foundation, and Michael even turned up on the day demanding that we all "Keep Calm and Curry On".

Royal British Legion

charity walk for this year's

In November, Senior Administrator, Mark, completed an 11-mile

Poppy Appeal.



Larches & Savick Boxing Club In December, with our supplier Elliott UK, we provided a site office to Larches and Savick Boxing Club. The unit will be used by Oak Education for supporting children with challenging behaviour.



Leyland Motors' Charity Walk

Catherine's Hospice, NW Ambulance,

Cancer Foundation. A total of £15,000

NW Air Ambulance and Rosemere

is Boxing Club Manager, Jimmy Moon



Brave the Shave

In October, Bid Manager, Gemma's daughter, Elle took part in 'Brave the Shave' for Macmillan Cancer Support. Elle raised over £1,000, supported by generous donations from Conlon staff.



BBC Young Reporters at Stockport School In October, Neil and Site Manager, Joe participated in the school's BBC Young Reporters programme, answering questions from the pupils regarding the current building works.

We have participated in various fundraising activities for our Charity of the Year, Lancashire Mind, during 2020:-



Back Yard BBQ

In July, Sean Conlon and his family arranged a BBQ and raffle at our GMP Operations Building project, to raise money for **Lancashire Mind.** All Conlon staff and operatives working on site were invited to attend and over £1,300 was raised for the charity.



Halloween Fancy Dress at Head Office On 30th October we held a halloween fancy dress day at our Head Office to raise money for Lancashire Mind.



Lynnie's Challenge Finance Superviser, Lynnie set herself a personal challenge for Lancashire Mind to complete 900 minutes of exercise by the end of October. With the help of family, friends and colleagues, she raised over £300.

'Love from Lancashire'

We sponsored the month of December in **Lancashire Mind's** 2021 calendar.





Lancashire 25 miles for 25 days

From 10th June to 5th July Neil cycled 25 miles each day to raise money for **Lancashire Mind**. He cycled a total of 691 miles which is exactly 1.5 times the palatine boundary of Lancashire. With the support of friends, family and colleagues Neil raised over £1,500.



Tour de L'esprit

Two exercise bikes have been installed in our Head Office canteen for staff to raise money for this year's charity. They have been peddling away whilst also keeping physically and mentally fit at work. HR Director, Maureen kicked off a Head Office challenge by offering to donate £1 per mile for the first five cyclists to complete 50 miles. Congratulations to Guy, Lynnie, Clare, Ste and Fiona for their contribution. We will keep on peddling until Spring 2021!

Mental Elf Lancashire to Lapland

We took part in **Lancashire Mind's** Mental Elf Campaign which ran from Tuesday 1st to Saturday 12th December.





Simon has cycled 75-miles over the duration of the Mental-Elf Challenge.



Joe set a personal target to run 50 miles (80km) in the first 12 days of December, in a novelty Christmas top. So far family and friends have kindly donated over £200! "



Ste and his girlfriend, Ash, took on their own personal **Lancashire Mind** Mental Elf challenge to walk, run or cycle the full 3,226km distance from Lancashire to Lapland, averaging 32.26km a day for 100 days. Last we heard they were in Sweden which apparently looks very similar to Preston's Guild Wheel and the Tolkien Trail!

We are pleased to have been successful in winning a number of awards again this year



Awards *

Red Rose Award Winners

We were pleased to have been awarded 'Construction Business of the Year' and to have also received the 'Corporate Social Responsibility' award 2020. Many thanks to all of our colleagues and suppliers for their valuable contribution to our success.

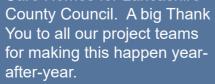


Manchester College Platinum Employer Award We have been acknowledged by Manchester College as one of their Platinum Employers. This award is in recognition of our ongoing support of their Architecture, Construction and Engineering Scholarship students, including extended work placements.

Considerate Constructors Awards

We have won 5 Considerate Constructors Scheme awards this year. These include *Gold* for Peterloo Memorial, Manchester and Cravenside Care Home, *Silver* for Our Town Hall, Manchester and *Bronze* for Favordale & Olive House Care Homes for Lancashire







Wythenshawe Hall

Our Grade II* listed Wythenshawe Hall project, which completed in November 2019, has been successfully shortlisted for the RIBA North West Awards and has reached the Regional Final for the Civic Trust Awards.

We're a #RoSPAWinner!

RoSPA Gold Award In March we were awarded our seventh consecutive RoSPA Gold Medal Award.



"A truly rewarding opportunity to have met an enthusiastic team committed to the highest of standards." - Cravenside Care Home, Barnoldswick - Gold Award.