

Insite

The newsletter of Conlon Construction



The Harris Museum, Preston

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Welcome

Chairman's Update by Michael Conlon

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 suspect when we all look back in years to come, the phrase 'a memorable year' might be an understatement. We have witnessed the outbreak of a worrying war in Europe, three different Prime Ministers and four Chancellors of the Exchequer (at the time of writing). Having seen our industry affected by the pandemic we are now having to contend with high inflation and interest rates. In addition, along with most of the World, we are being told to brace ourselves for an impending recession.

Having started with the gloomy news I have to say that after 61 years in business these factors are nothing we haven't faced before. Well, possibly the revolving doors of our political leaders is unique. As a business we like to describe ourselves, not as risk averse, but as risk aware. Thus we will be taking measures to ensure that, to as great an extent as possible, our company and supply chain will be shielded from the issues affecting the economy.

One way in which we are able to maintain our turnover is being appointed to prestige frameworks. These provide reliable pipelines of workload from trusted and respected clients, often in the public sector. It is therefore very reassuring to have been appointed this year to three such frameworks.

In featuring some of the projects we have recently undertaken a number stand out. Project Neptune in Fleetwood was the construction of fish processing facilities at the quayside. We met the challenges of safely working alongside deep water and delivered buildings which delighted our new client, ABP. In recent times we have found ourselves working on police facilities in three

different locations. These were the SOCH building for GMP and more recently both the Skelmersdale and Bamber Bridge police stations for Lancashire Constabulary. As the priorities of both central and local government change we will be ready to provide the buildings required.

With our longstanding reputation and capabilities with regard to heritage construction work we have been appointed to projects on a number of listed buildings. These include the Grosvenor building in Manchester for MMU and the Grade I listed Harris Museum and Library in Preston. We have diligently established a supply chain with the skills required for these projects. It gives us all pride to refresh and maintain such buildings for future generations.

Once again we are delighted to announce our success in industry awards. Our project in Blackpool, Coopers@Ambleside, was a winner in the Leading Lights Awards by the Considerate Constructors Scheme. Our project at Preston Bus Station has been recognised yet again in Civic Trust Awards and Altrincham Girls Grammar School was shortlisted in the Education Estates and Façade Awards. For the ninth year in a row we have been awarded a RoSpA Gold Award which recognises the efforts by all our teams to keep everyone affected by our projects safe.

Finally, as we approach 2023, we would like to extend thanks and best wishes to all our dedicated staff, clients past and present, together with the members of our fantastic supply chain.



This year two long-serving members of staff decided to hang up their hats and retire.

Martin Kilheeneey

Martin oversaw 40 projects during his 15 years with the company, receiving compliments from colleagues, clients and end-users alike. We wish him a long and happy retirement.



Brian Fearon

During his 24 years working for the company, Brian made a valuable contribution to a wide range of projects. We extend our grateful thanks and very best wishes to Brian and his family. Brian is pictured here with Michael receiving a team award in 2015.

Chosen Charities

Our chosen charity for 2021/22 was Age Concern Lancashire, who provide dementia services and advice & guidance on 'ageing well and living well'. We have had a longstanding relationship with the charity and have enjoyed providing financial and resource support during the year.



Our sponsored charity for 2023 is **unseen**, who provide safehouses and support in the community for survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. Slavery is an umbrella term for activities involved where one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service.

Contract Awards

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



Lancaster University Ruskin Building

Works involve upgrades to the building façade to increase the performance of the roof, walls, windows and doors, environmental systems, fire & security alarms and to improve public access within the building.



Jubilee Gardens Extra Care Facility, Leyland

The works include the provision of a 75-apartment extra care residential building which will comprise 67 x 1-bed apartments, 8 x 2-bed apartments, and visitor accommodation.

Queen's Park Conservation Studio, Manchester

Works include the refurbishment of the gallery roof, basement, internal surfaces, M&E, as well as improved public access.

Dean Row SEND School, Wilmslow

Works include the conversion of the existing building into a SEND School for 80 pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Templemoor Infants School, Trafford

Works comprise remodelling of the existing school plus construction of 3 classrooms, including cloaks, storage and WCs.

Bolton University Collegiate School

Works include the construction of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and two-storey changing and teaching block.

Seven Stars Primary School, Leyland

Works comprise the construction of a new 1FE school including 16 SEND and 26 nursery places. The building will provide a modern teaching space.



Kingsley Fields Primary School, Nantwich

Works include the design and construction of a new build 1FE primary school to accommodate 210 pupils and a SEND Resource Provision facility for up to 14 pupils. The school will reduce pressures on oversubscribed schools in the Nantwich area and also aim to prevent travel across the town for some pupils.



Olive Primary School, Manchester

Construction of a new faith school for 420 pupils and associated external works, including MUGA, mini-soccer pitch, play areas and car parking.

We have been successfully appointed onto three significant frameworks including:-

Rise Construction Framework

We look forward to working with the Rise team in the near future on general construction and refurbishment projects between £5m-£15m in value across the North West.



Procure Partnerships Framework

We are very pleased to have been awarded a place on Lot 2 (£1m-£5m) of the Procure Partnerships Framework which covers construction projects across the North West.



Procure23 Framework

We have been successfully awarded a place on Lot 1 (North West) which will allow us the opportunity to bid for NHS healthcare projects up to £20m in value.



Current Projects

Some of the major projects we are working on this year



Harris Museum, Preston

Works to the Grade I listed building include comprehensive refurbishment of the interior including a complete M&E upgrade, removal of existing mezzanines to create full height open spaces and the installation of a new lift, as well as roof and external façade refurbishment.



Blackpool Showtown Museum

Works include the fit-out of the shell and core space of the 2,500m² Museum which will showcase Blackpool's heritage.



The Firs Primary School, Sale

Works comprise the construction of a new, 2-storey extension to the existing school providing 9 additional classrooms, a studio, group rooms and additional welfare facilities.



MMU Grosvenor Building, Manchester

Works to the Grade II listed building include; renovations to the external envelope and roof, M&E replacement, internal redecoration, listed remedial works and improvements to circulation areas. The building is occupied by the School of Art and is used for studio spaces for art, design and sculpture. It also houses the Holden Gallery which is used for art exhibitions and presentations.



Wilmslow High School, Cheshire

The plans for the school are to increase it from a 10FE to a 12FE facility. Works include the linking of the existing sports facilities, remodelling of the internal space to improve the current layout and a new extension to the entrance area to create an administrative block.



Christmas Markets, Manchester

For the 4th time, we have been appointed by Manchester City Council to carry out the 2022 set-up and decant. The Manchester Christmas Markets are the largest in the UK with stalls erected in 16 locations across the city centre. The majority of the work takes place overnight to minimise disruption to the busy city centre zone.

Willows Primary School, Trafford

Works comprise the construction of a 2-storey extension to the existing school, whilst the school remains in occupation.

Bamber Bridge Police Station

Works include the refurbishment and remodelling of the ground floor and custody suite within the existing building.

Completed Projects

Some of the major projects we have completed in 2022



Woodford Garden Village Primary School, Stockport

Construction of a new, 2,300m² 1FE D&B primary school for Stockport Council, on behalf of Redrow Homes. The design allows for a future 2FE extension.



Blackpool Enterprise Zone Sports Pavilion

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

Zion Arts Centre, Manchester

The works involved the renewal of all flat and pitched roof coverings and roof lights. We also carried out significant decarbonisation works, including the installation of photo-voltatics on the roof.



Project Neptune, Fleetwood

The project consisted of upgrading quayside revetments and replacement of the current food processing units at the Port of Fleetwood with twelve, new, purpose-built units within two warehouses. The largest unit (Unit 1), stands alone and Units 2-12 form a back-to-back terrace with a central access corridor between. The new units will initially be used for food processing and have been future-proofed for easy adaption, dependent on demand.

New Moston Primary School, Manchester

Works included the rewire of the existing electrical installations, replacement of the boiler and re-configuration of the school entrance area to provide greater security to staff, pupils and visitors.



Skelmersdale Police Station

This project included the full refurbishment of a five-storey 2,300m² building to provide a flexible working environment for building users. We renewed M&E and data installations and re-cladded external facades. We also carried out the demolition and re-build of the annex facilities.



National Football Museum, Manchester

Works included internal refurbishment and the upgrade of M&E services including the removal and replacement of air handling units and other existing facilities.



Sir Tom Finney High School, Preston

Our third contract at the school included the construction of additional classrooms and accommodation for teachers and pupils.

Conlon in the Community

Extracts from our Social Value activity calendar are highlighted below



We have participated in various fundraising activities for our Charity of the Year, Age Concern Lancashire, who provide dementia services and advice & guidance on 'ageing well and living well'.



New Shed for People Who Potter

Age Concern asked if Conlon could relocate one of their existing sheds, used to provide carpentry activities for elderly people with onset dementia, from Lostock Hall to their Charnley Fold Memory Clinic site. We thought it would be more practical to provide a new shed. Many thanks to Solid Sheds and Bowker Electrical for providing support.



Raising Funds for Age Concern at our 60th Celebrations

On the evening of our 60th anniversary celebrations we asked for donations towards Age Concern and raised a fantastic amount on the evening. We raffled a diamond with all funds raised in aid of the Charity. Pictured are Julie, our Receptionist and Admin Assistant, Emma.



On the 14th June, we held our **Charity Golf Day** at The Worsley Park Marriott to raise funds for Age Concern.

There were 19 teams of 4 all playing for the much-coveted, Pat Conlon Memorial Trophy, along with the added hinderance of a Yellow Ball competition. There were some good scores on the day, Allied Access came a close second, but won the Yellow Ball competition, with the overall winners who now have their name on the trophy being the West Lancashire Group. Afterwards, a few drinks were well deserved, and it was great to catch up with so many members of our Supply Chain. We would like to thank all who took part and donated raffle prizes, which helped us to raise £5,000 for Age Concern on the day. Pictured are Maureen and Darren with the winning team.



Working with Blackpool's Green Team

We have been privileged to secure a number of projects with Blackpool Council recently and have been keen to support their social value aspirations. As part of this we have worked closely with members of the local learning disability 'Green Team'. Together, we have provided mobile planters at Coopers@Ambleside Respite Centre and bird boxes at our Blackpool Enterprise Zone project. Many thanks to Jem Counce of R&D Counce and Lee Norman of LN Joinery for their invaluable support. We are looking forward to our next opportunity to work with the Green Team, whose enthusiasm is infectious.



Careers Panel Event for Showtown Museum

As part of our social value contribution on the Showtown Museum project, Neil attended 2 careers events at Blackpool College and St George's Secondary School alongside a number of our key suppliers. The events were attended by over 200 pupils in total and were very well received by teachers and pupils alike.



Community Donations

Over the past 12 months the CSR committee has worked closely with our project teams to support local charities and community events adjacent to our sites. In addition, we like to leave a social value legacy on each project we complete.



Working with Young People from Manchester

Neil worked with Julie from Keepmoat to introduce 6 young adults from Manchester to the world of ceramic tiling. Many thanks to Harrison Tiling for providing their expertise on the day and introducing the young people to another trade in the construction industry.



Promoting Apprenticeships in the Fylde

The photo above shows Aimee, Jasmine and Hamza, our Construction Management Apprentices, visiting our Showtown Museum project. In total, we have provided opportunities for 11 apprentices on this project which Blackpool Council has used to promote apprenticeships across the Fylde region.

T-Level Placements

We continue to support Manchester College and Blackpool & Fylde College with T-Level Placements on our projects. Pictured are; T-Level student, George, with members of the Laurus Trust and Conlon Site Manager, Stephen, at our Woodford Garden Village Primary School project.



Awards

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



Education Estates and Facade Awards

Our Altrincham Girls Grammar School project reached the shortlist for Project of the Year at the Education Estates Awards and also Best New Build Project at the Facade Awards. Many thanks to Bowker Sadler Architects for their innovative design and LN Joinery for producing another high quality finish.

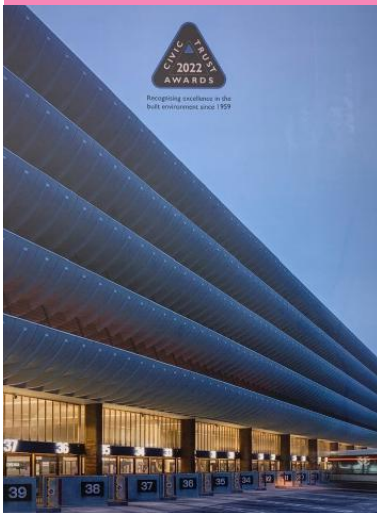


Civic Trust Awards

We are very proud to have received a Special Award for Reuse and Adaptation for our Preston Bus Station project. This is just one of a number of accolades this iconic building has received since our refurbishment of the Concourse and Car Park in 2018.

RoSPA Gold Award

In April we were very pleased to be awarded our 9th consecutive RoSPA Gold Medal. This award demonstrates our continuing focus on delivering projects to the highest safety and welfare standards in the industry.



Preston Vocational Centre

Director, Maureen, is a Trustee of the PVC, which featured in Freddie Flintoff's Field of Dreams BBC series this summer and we are proud sponsors of their 'Student of the Year Award'. Our congratulations go to James Smallshaw who was presented with this year's accolade, in recognition of his achievements since joining the PVC. He has already secured a bricklaying apprenticeship and we wish him well with his future career in the industry. James is pictured here with his proud mum.



CONSIDERATE
CONSTRUCTORS
SCHEME

LEADING
LIGHTS AWARDS

WINNER
2022

Considerate Constructor Awards

It has been all change at Considerate Constructors this year with a new scoring regime and awards process focusing on Leading Lights. We were delighted to receive the Award for Community Engagement on our Coopers@Ambleside project, Blackpool. This was in recognition of our work with the local learning disability Green Team (see Page 7, Conlon in the Community).