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Framework Update

In the last edition of 'William Birch in the News' we reported that we had secured a place on the North Yorkshire County Council construction framework; since then we have been working closely with the Council to take a number of projects to site, we have now commenced on the following projects, amongst others;

- The refurbishment & extension to Richmond School
- The refurbishment of Wensleydale School in Leyburn
- The refurbishment of the Leeming Bar Highways depot

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Art & Music Facility at Bootham School



The team on the new Art & Music building for the highly prestigious Bootham School in York have handed over the completed building.

The new facilities provide a vibrant, lively and creative space for learning and are linked to the existing buildings on that part of the busy campus. This reinforces Bootham School's commitment to re-use, refurbish and retain as much of the physical buildings as possible.

Simon Potter (Construction Manager) said "Sensitive and respectful to the existing buildings on the campus this new building sits at the heart of the development plans for the overall school. The project team has worked hard to produce a high quality creative space that the students, staff and visitors to Bootham will enjoy performing in." The School has published a [virtual tour](#) of the new building.

William Birch Project team: Simon Potter (Construction Manager), Carl Barrow (Site Manager) and Ian Turner (QS)

Work Begins at Scampston Hall



A £1 MILLION restoration project to save a Victorian conservatory at the historic Scampston Hall in Ryedale has begun. The work at Scampston Hall will protect its glasshouses, built in 1894, as well as the Gardeners' Bothies. The glasshouses are a major feature of the hall's walled garden. Once restored, the conservatory and bothies will be used by local schools and groups for heritage and education activities, with a community room and lecture theatre set up. Funding has come from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations. Paul Goyea, William Birch & Sons' Managing Director, said:

"We have been working with the client's project team over the last few months on this interesting and important scheme - we have a long history of restoring heritage buildings to be used for education purposes and our team will enjoy once again working in this sensitive environment." Caroline Legard, Scampston Conservatory Preservation Company's project leader, said: "Our vision is not only to restore this wonderful building, but to enable a wide range of people to become involved with gardening and the wider estate at Scampston."

William Birch Project team: Lee Scaife (Contracts Manager), Kevin Wheller (Site Manager) and Vincent Roberts (QS)

The Gateway to History commences....



Work at the York Explore library on Museum Street for the City of York Council has commenced and will include a state-of-the-art conservation store for priceless records along with refurbishment of the building's first floor.

The Gateway to History project to create a new city archive received a £1.5 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant and is the major public legacy of the York800 celebrations. Managing Director Paul Goyea said: "We are delighted to have been selected to complete this prestigious project which has such importance to the city. The City Council is committed to working with local contractors and we are encouraged by this approach. The William Birch office is situated within four miles of the new Archive and 70% of employees live within a five mile radius of the project bringing a strong local presence to the project." The new archive is scheduled to open this autumn.

Pictured (Left to Right) – Paul Goyea (MD of William Birch); Councillor Sonja Crisp (City of York Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism); Richard Taylor (City Archivist)

William Birch Project Team: Lee Scaife (Contracts Manager), Carl Barrow (Site Manager), Pat Butler (QS)

Conisbrough Castle....



William Birch has been awarded the contract to provide a new visitor centre at the highly acclaimed Conisbrough Castle in Doncaster.

The existing metal structure of the Visitor Centre at the Castle, built in the 1990s to resemble a jousting tent, has been demolished to make way for the new facilities which will be housed in the newly converted 19th century Lodge.

The new Visitor Centre will offer a more suitable space to accommodate visitors, in addition to a more appealing and sympathetic design for the conservation protected area. This is all part of the redevelopment project that will see the castle brought back to life later in the year.

Much work has already taken place behind the scenes, with preparation well under way for the new interpretation at the castle, which will incorporate local people who took part in the 'Faces of Conisbrough Castle' campaign.

William Birch Project Team: Steve Bennett (Contracts Manager), Barry Cook (Site Manager), Ben Thomson (QS)

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