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Latest Contract Wins

We have been extremely busy over the summer months with our Education customers, particularly the Universities who were keen to continue upgrading and improving their facilities in readiness for the new term in September; We secured a number of projects at **Leeds University** upgrading teaching / accommodation facilities as well as a 2nd phase at **York St John's University** to upgrade student accommodation at The Grange, following the successful completion of Phase 1, this has a contract value of £470k.

Outside of Education we have secured a £1m extension and refurbishment project at Airedale Hospital in Keighley for **Bradford District NHS Care Trust** and a £700k Design & Build project to develop a 20-bedroom accommodation facility for the **Army Foundation College** in Harrogate. Work also starts next week on the £1m historic refurbishment of West Park for **Goole Town Council**

STOP PRESS.....

The site team at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate took on the newest cadets at the College in a game of 5-a-side football this month...despite a concerted attempt the latest cadets at the College stole the show at half time with a 9-0 score and we all lost count after that!

Management Changes



Chris Birch, Chairman of the business hands over his role as Managing Director to Paul Goyea.

Chris is the fourth generation of the Birch family to run and manage the business in York, he joined the family business in 1973 and has led the teams for the last 11 years. He will continue in his capacity as Chairman and hand over his role as MD to Construction Director Paul Goyea.

Chris said *"William Birch & Sons Ltd has come through the recent turbulent period for the industry with an enviable portfolio of construction projects, backed up by an excellent pipeline of enquiries"*

As we start to see the glimmer of improvements in trading conditions, now is the right time for me to pass on the leadership of the company to Paul who has the expertise and energy to carry the business forward to new levels. I look forward to seeing the company go from strength to strength in the future"

Paul Goyea, Managing Director said *"Chris's contribution within the business and support of the shareholders' core values has been invaluable in the company's stability in recent years and also our growth leading up to the current challenging period. I have no doubt Chris, as Chairman, will continue to influence us all as we build from the legacy he has established."*

I am confident and pleased to recognise that the future of our business lies in the hands of our dedicated workforce and staff. Our employees continue to offer to our clients and construction professionals the benefit of their considerable experience; in a collaborative and spirited manner. Both Alistair Birch and myself remain excited about leading the WBS Team and enhancing the construction service for which we are renowned."

We are also pleased to announce the promotion of a number of individuals within the business; Stuart Peace has taken up the role of Contract Manager based in the York office; also Barry Cook takes on the role of site manager, working predominantly from our Leeds office. We also welcome Patrick Butler, Senior QS to the team in York.

We furthermore continue to commit to our Apprenticeship programme, as we have over the 140 years. We have taken on two new apprentices from York College, joiner - Joe Jackson and bricklayer - Austin Aldridge. We wish them well at the start of their career.

Audrey Scott, in the Accounts Department has retired from the business after 13 years of supporting the team. We wish her well for a healthy and happy retirement.

Framework win in North Yorkshire

The team in York have secured a two and a half year framework with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) to provide building and refurbishment services across the county. We will be working with the team at NYCC and Jacob's UK to carry out all projects within the Richmondshire and Hambleton districts from £5k to £250k as well as having the opportunity to look at all projects over £250k across the whole of the county council region.

Paul Goyea, Managing Director said *'we are delighted to have been selected as a partner to NYCC, as a locally based contractor with a wide portfolio of experience on public buildings. Having restored the historic Carnegie Library in Harrogate and built a number of children's centres in the past for the Council we are very much looking forward to continuing our relationship with the team under the structure of the framework'.*

The Council has a property portfolio of over 750 buildings and geographically is the largest county in England and Wales.

National Considerate Constructor Awards



Two of our projects have recently won national awards for their commitment to the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

The Considerate Constructors Scheme's National Site Awards are given to only the highest scoring 7.5% of registered sites. The awards recognise sites' excellent standards of consideration towards their neighbours, their workforce and the environment.

The new **U-Mix Centre** under the Government's 'MyPlace' agenda for Sheffield City Council at the Lowfields Estate has won a Bronze Award.

The project manager, Stuart Peace, was praised the auditor commenting *"this site far exceeds its contract obligations ...and sets a high standard of the principles of the CCS scheme"*. The new extension at **Thornton Primary School** for the City of Bradford MDC won a Silver Award. Led by site manager Kevin Wheller, the team was praised for its outstanding 'appearance' and its relationship with the neighbourhood community.

Sector focus: Historic Parks

William Birch has developed a strong portfolio of historic park restoration projects over the years and continues to be active in this sector at a time when they are at the forefront of attention for funding bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Many of our parks and open spaces are falling into a state of disrepair, the situation is of such concern that HLF has commissioned a major new report aiming to provide a thorough insight into the challenging situation faced by the parks. A team of industry experts will deliver the *State of the UK's Public Parks' Report* in Spring 2014.

We are currently delivering the complex £3m restoration of **Victoria Park for St Helen's Council** restoring the park to its former glory and improve its visitor facilities. The preservation of the park's historic character and the restoration of its important Listed features will be revealed to the local community in Spring 2014.

Work will also start on the restoration of **West Park at Goole for the Town Council** next week, this £1m project is set to refurbish and extend the pavilion to form a cafe and offices, refurbish the existing bandstand and bowling lobby as well as improving access, lighting, signage and landscaping areas.

Other projects include the restoration of **Shibden Park in Halifax for Calderdale Council** and the recent restoration of **Sewerby Hall and Gardens in Bridlington**, which continues to be developed. Stuart Peace, Contracts Manager who has worked on many of our park restoration schemes, said *"It is the complex nature of these projects and their varied work type, with key specialisms such as listed building restoration and landscaping and civils work that William Birch has been able to bring the greatest impact. On the £4.5m Shibden Park restoration scheme in Halifax we had a total of 29 separate work packages spread across the parklands which proved to be a logistical challenge. Nevertheless the project was delivered to the benefit of the thousands of visitors it attracts each year. We are pleased to see the HLF's latest announcement on the next round of funding which will benefit 11 parks across the country, and hope that we will be involved in moving these projects forward"*

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