



Autumn 2008

Hello and welcome to our Autumn newsletter.

The speed and scale of the current financial implosion of UK Plc has left businesses shell shocked. Companies that change and adapt quickly to the new environment will survive, some will do well but those who are not flexible to change will inevitably fall by the wayside.

The Gelder Group has its own unique character, this character and its ability to welcome, not resist change, has enabled it to expand rapidly during the past 20 years. It is this quality more than any other that is enabling us to adapt more quickly than our competitors to the new market we find ourselves operating in.

We are constantly making the necessary changes to protect our market position, not all of these are proving popular but all are required and are enabling us to maintain our order book and manage our finances more efficiently, the success of this is reflected in the fact that we are actually enjoying a record year – it just doesn't feel like we are!

Very best regards, I hope you enjoy this newsletter.



Steve Gelder MBE
Managing Director



Worm Farm....

As part of our ongoing recycling process we have introduced a worm farm to our £250,000 environmental project. The worm farm will be stocked with red worms that are capable of consuming their own body weight every 48 hours. The process will enable all food waste and tea bags from the Group's Head Office canteen to be recycled into compost, reducing further the waste sent to landfill. The farm will also have the added benefit of providing a free supply of worms for anglers fishing in the lake.



Pictured: Environmental Officer James Hill with the first bucket of canteen waste

Group Awarded Largest Contract to Date

The Group's Major Contracts Division are pleased to announce the securing of their largest order to date, a £5.8 million, 104 week re-development of the Birchwood Shopping Centre, Lincoln for the Lincolnshire Co-operative Society.

Works are due to commence on site in January 2009 and will involve the demolition of a proportion of the existing retail space, construction of new retail space, health units, first floor office space, food units and residential apartments along with alterations and re-modelling of the retained units and Co-op



Steve Gelder and Ursula Lidbetter sign the £5.8m contract

Food Store.

The contract is the largest building project ever undertaken by the Lincolnshire Co-operative Society and will also involve modifications to the existing car park and a new site entrance.

Managing Director, Steve Gelder, commented 'I am truly delighted that Ursula Lidbetter (Lincoln Co-op Chief Executive) and her team have put their trust in a local company to deliver this project. This contract helps give the Gelder Group stability at a time of great financial uncertainty'

Corporate Golf Day 2008

On the 10th September 2008 we held our first Annual Golf Day at The Lincoln Golf Club, Torksey, Lincolnshire.

During a week in which heavy rain fell during 4 of the 5 working week days, the organising team were very relieved to be met with blue skies, enabling a barbecue to be provided on the 10th tee.

Guests were greeted with bacon rolls and coffee on arrival before the main competition, followed by a formal dinner and presentation in the evening.

With a score of 39 and after a back 9 countback Dave Fisher of Natwest, Lincoln was presented with the winner's trophy (pictured right) by Gelder Group



Managing Director Steve Gelder.



Winners of the team trophy (pictured left) Andy Hill (Gelder Group), Graham Daubney (Mouchel Business Services) and Mark Taylor (Masstock Farm Logistics)

Walking Weekend is Personal Triumph for Louisa

On Saturday 25th October 2008, 17 employees and partners completed the toughest annual walk ever attempted by the Gelder Group, a 10 mile walk up the 3116ft Hellvellyn Mountain via the precarious Striding Edge route, which incorporated some scrambling and climbing prior to reaching the summit and descending down the North East side.



Insurance Co-ordinator Louisa Sharpe nearing the summit of Hellvellyn

This walk was a huge personal achievement for Insurance Co-ordinator Louisa Sharpe (pictured left) who after a severe illness and several operations, had been told by specialists that she would be confined to a wheelchair by the age of 40.

Louisa, now 47, after a difficult start to the walk, dug in and showed true grit and determination to complete it. This was a huge personal achievement for Louisa and all her colleagues are truly proud of her.



The team unveil a flag at the summit

Group Welcome 2008 Apprentices

The Gelder Group are pleased to have recruited seven new apprentices for this year's intake. The Company place a lot of emphasis on training and it took from May to August to shortlist this year's applicants from the hundreds that applied.

Group Training Manager, Mike Johnson commented "Our training academy will provide support to ensure that all seven apprentices receive the best training possible to turn them into first rate trades-men / women"



John Telford (Bricklayer), Connor Horgan (Bricklayer), Nathan Bunn (Joiner), Kayleigh Woodward (Painting and Decorating), Josh Harvey (Painting and Decorating), Mitchell Fahey (Plumbing), Kyle Hughes (Plastering)

£320,000 Investment in New Vehicles

The Gelder Group have made significant investment in new vehicles during the past three months. 14 vans, 8 cars and a new main delivery vehicle have been purchased at an overall cost of £320,000.

Pictured are the new vehicles, the centre piece being the new £80,000 18 tonne Volvo lorry complete with bespoke tipper body with attached radio controlled 7.9 metre reach crane.

Pictured Dave Leak, Fleet Manager and Dick Woodcock, Driver, taking delivery of the vehicles



Appointments



Danny Rounce, 44, joins our Insurance Repair & Renovation Division as Contracts Manager. Danny joins us from Chestnut Homes where he worked for five years as a Contract Manager. Danny has 28 years experience in the construction industry.

Diary Dates

Bonfire Celebrations Friday 7th Nov 2008

*Gelder Group will sponsor
Lincoln City V Darlington FC
Sat 14th February 2009*

Contact us...

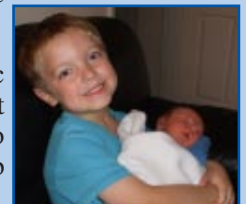
If you would like to receive further information about the Gelder Group and the services we provide please mail info@gelder.co.uk or telephone 01427 788837 to request an information pack.

Baby Boom!

The end of Summer and start of Autumn saw a baby boom for the Group, with two employees celebrating the new arrivals.



Congratulations to Accounts Assistant Harriet Austen who celebrated with husband Kris the birth of Noah Thomas Austen (pictured left with mum) Noah was born on the 3rd July 2008, weighing 6lb 11oz.



Congratulations to Jo Gray and husband Ric who celebrated the birth of Kellan Vincent Gray (pictured right with brother Tom) who was born on the 4th September weighing 8lb 12oz.

Everyone at the group wishes both families all the best!

Chrissy Law is the Editor of this Newsletter which is published quarterly. If you have a story you wish to be considered for the next publication or should you wish to be added to our mailing list for future publications please email chrissy@gelder.co.uk or alternatively you can download our newsletter via our website.

