



Spring 2009

This quarter's newsletter was delayed by two weeks, whilst we waited for some expected and very exciting news – it wasn't forthcoming, but I'm hopeful we will announce it in our summer newsletter.

Sales in our Barlborough and Kettering offices remain strong and our first quarter Group sales exceeded budget by £1.3 million, although I feel that we will look back in years to come and decide that Spring 09 was when Gelder Group finally joined in with the UK recession – not something that I really wanted us to participate in. At least we were latecomers.

Thankfully, we still carry forward a strong order book. Maintaining it is not easy, but our geographical spread has allowed us to target, with some success, new markets.

As the recession bites it is a tribute to our staff that we have managed to change our mix of business so well; to continually maintain a positive attitude and maintain turnover in the face of an unbelievably tough economic climate is remarkable.

Thank you as always for your continued support, particularly our customers, new and old. We appreciate your support and we will continue to strive for ways to exceed your expectations and delight you.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter.




Steve Gelder MBE
Managing Director

Thatched Roof Restoration

8 months after a fire destroyed the thatched roof of a 200 year old property at Stow, a new identical thatched roof has been completed.

This is the first thatched roof project undertaken by the Group. Please visit gelder.co.uk for the full story.



Pictured - the property restored to its former glory.

Best Large Employer to Work For Award



On the 26th February 2009 the Gelder Group were delighted to be presented with the 'Large Employer of the Year Award', at the Lincolnshire and Rutland Work Based Learning Awards.

The Group received this award under the apprenticeship category and it represents the Group's commitment to its highly successful apprenticeship scheme.

The recent £500k investment into a new Training Academy and a fresh intake of apprentices in 2008 shows the Group's continued support towards training and personal development.

Pictured Steve Gelder MD receiving the award from Carol Chambers, Director of Children and Young People Services

Group Apprentice on Radio Lincolnshire

On 25th February the Gelder Group were delighted to take part in a live broadcast for BBC Radio Lincolnshire. The radio feature was part of the 'National Apprenticeship Week' - an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the essential role that Apprenticeships are playing in today's business world.

The Gelder Group are one of Lincolnshire's leading apprenticeship employers (see previous item 'Best Large Employer to Work for Award'). Radio Lincolnshire spent the morning across various sites showcasing the Group's Apprenticeship Programme.

Live interviews were conducted with apprentices, managers and representatives from Construction Skills.

Pictured: BBC Radio Lincolnshire Presenter James Wickham interviewing apprentices Nathan Bunn (Joiner) & Conner Horgan (bricklayer)



LACE Housing Project Completed at Olsen Court



On Friday 27th March 2009 the Gelder Group handed over phase 3 at Olsen Court, Lincoln, for clients Lace Housing Ltd. The project consisted of 21 flats, entrance area, lift, store, office areas and communal corridors. The £1.6 million project was completed and handed over to our clients ahead of schedule. Phase 2, completed in February consisted of four, 2 bedroom flats and five 2 bedroom bungalows. The project is located at the centre of our clients existing care home facilities and so careful consideration and planning was required by our management team to ensure that disruption to the residents, visitors and staff of Lace housing was kept to a minimum. Pictured Lace Chief Executive Nick Chambers with site managers David Kitching and Neil Holt.



Witham St Hughs School Winners Visit

Following the competition the Group ran as part of Witham St Hughs School's Activity week in October, we were pleased to welcome the winners to the Head Office.

The pupils brief was to design a 3-4 bedroom house that was eco-friendly and used recyclable and sustainable products. The three overall winners and two highly commended winners, along with Head Teacher Neil Spencelayh, attended the Head Office, where they enjoyed a tour of the offices, and an opportunity to meet MD Steve Gelder.



The winners were subsequently presented with trophies on Friday 30th January during their school assembly.

1000 Years of Experience

The Gelder Group recently gathered together their eldest 17 employees for a photo shoot to promote a theme of "1000 Years of Experience" the combined age of the 17 employees actually totalled 1024.

The reason behind the photo shoot was to promote to customers just how much experience the Group can call on at a moments notice.



Marketing Manager Chrissy Law commented that one of her themes over the coming months would be to promote the Group's "experience and expertise" to clients, adding that "a steady hand on the rudder, by experienced managers is what many clients are calling for in the present market, this photo proves that we can provide that".

Appointments

Our Central Midlands Office welcomes two new insurance administrators to the team - Beverly Foster and Maggie Bullman. These additions show just how much this divisional office has grown since its introduction.



Our Plumbing & Heating Division welcomes Nick Burrows, Contracts Manager (left) and Sam Wright, Office Manager (right). Nick, joins us from Homeserve (Improveline) where he worked for 4 years as an Area Repair Manager. Sam joins us from Jackson Building Centres where she previously worked as a Purchase Ledger Assistant.



Congratulations to...

Insurance Contracts Manager Gary Rousseau celebrates the birth of his 1st grandchild. Jack Anthony Gary Rousseau (pictured), weighing 8lb was born on the 19th March, both baby and mum Amy are very well. The group wishes the Rousseau family all the best!



Quantity Surveyor Stewart Loughton and wife Sarah celebrated the birth of their 2nd child Lucy Elizabeth, on the 8th April, weighing 6lb 5oz. Both mum Sarah and Lucy are doing well. Everyone at the group wishes the Loughton family all the best.

Diary Dates

Camping weekend 12th - 14th June
Corporate Golf Day Thursday 10th September

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.

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.

