

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

With Prime Minister Theresa May issuing Article 50 officially notifying president Donald Tusk of the UK's intention to leave the EU on 29 March 2017 and the forthcoming snap General Election, we enter interesting times in the construction industry. There are many possible effects on our industry depending on the outcome of the various negotiations but we suspect building costs will be one of the high agenda topics. The RICS BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) are consequently looking at a number of scenarios for the UK's withdrawal from the EU and its effect on the five-year forecast for building tender prices. We will keep a watchful eye on matters as negotiations develop.

With Spring well and truly in the air we take stock of some of the interesting projects with which we are currently involved. This edition has a distinct education theme coinciding with our recent attendance at the Academies Show as well as our Headline Sponsorship at the forthcoming ISBA (Independent Schools' Bursars Association) Conference in May.

Featuring some of our recently completed projects, we also focus on some that are very much still in progress including the Science Centre at Sevenoaks School, The Fowler Pavilion

at Framingham College and the new Sixth Form Centre at Walthamstow Hall School.

We also say a fond farewell to a longstanding Partner Denis Ulyet and welcome a new Partner, Karen Sandford to our team. Karen will be based in our Bath Office.

We hope you enjoy the Spring Edition of our newsletter and look forward to meeting our clients and contacts over the coming months.

Academy client base steadily grows

Synergy were delighted to learn that we have been successful in helping our school clients secure in excess of £11m in the recent Condition Improvement Fund bidding round.

The bids address a variety of urgent building issues of condition, compliance, health and safety and maintenance needs. With such a heavily oversubscribed and competitive process this result is testament to the skill of our specialist bidding advice team.

In addition, and for the first time, our team was an exhibitor at the Academies Show on 26th April 2017 at ExCeL London. Our team provided on-the-spot support and advice on new build, refurbishment, extension and maintenance projects as well as guidance on the CIF bidding process.

If you missed our team at the event, no problem, just contact Jenny Howard on j.howard@synergyllp.com who will be pleased to arrange for one of our specialist advisors to visit your school to discuss your forthcoming projects.

The
**Academies
Show**

**26th APRIL 2017
ExCeL, LONDON**

#AcademiesLDN17



New landscaping takes full advantage of the sloping site through the construction of a small amphitheatre.

Caterham School's Performing Arts Centre in the limelight

Work has recently completed on the construction of a new £3 million two storey extension to the Humphreys Hall performing arts building. The works originally included a new entrance foyer and two ancillary drama studios, one to be equipped with auditoria seating for rehearsals and smaller productions, however mid-way through the contract, the decision was taken to adapt this studio to create a new "black box" style theatre.

This adjustment to the initial design required the provision of comfort cooling and mechanical ventilation, AV Installation, black out blinds and other changes including a completely new dark colour scheme to all surfaces and fittings.

New landscaping takes full advantage of the sloping site through the construction of a small amphitheatre creating a focal point to the front of the building. This space is complemented by the adjustable vertical brise soleil and

coloured floodlighting which is programmable to suit events in the building. The final result is a stunning addition to the school's performance spaces, and was completed within the original programme and within budget despite the revisions to the scheme.

The scheme was designed by Miller Bourne Architects and constructed by Tasker Catchpole Limited. Synergy provided Quantity Surveying and Health and Safety Services.



First Phase of Academy Expansion Project reaches completion

As part of the expansion works to allow for an additional form of entry, stylish art and maths facilities have just been completed at St Clement Danes School in Hertfordshire.

The two storey extension to the existing Sixth Form Carey Building provides eight new maths teaching spaces and increased provision for the Sixth Form common room on the ground floor.



Spacious new art rooms open up as one huge gallery space.

On the upper floor there are four spacious new art rooms which are capable of opening up as one huge gallery space for the students' impressive annual show of work and examination display. The upper floor space is a carefully designed environment using artificial and natural lighting, ventilation and a ceiling heating system. It opens up into the existing sixth form centre to which the building links on two floors. A light and capacious atrium is formed at the angle between the two buildings which accommodates the entrance, staircase and gallery over. Extending into the ground floor maths circulation, this affords views across the grounds and a dense screen of trees on the south side providing the most effective yet natural brise soleil.



Synergy provided a full service on this project including design to planning permission, Project Management and Quantity Surveying. The next phase will encompass the refurbishment of the old art and maths classrooms, to take the additional intake as well as new changing rooms for PE and games.

The new state-of-the-art facilities are a far cry from the construction of the original school building back in 1975. As an architectural student, the writer of this article remembers the school in construction in the '70s, its skeleton of posts and beams quickly appearing in fields near the village of Chenies. This was the last new school in Herts to be built using the 'CLASP' system of lightweight steel frame and glazed curtain walling. 'CLASP' stands for Consortium of Local Authorities Special Programme and originates from an idea for flexible structures over Derbyshire mine workings. The system suffered from a poor maintenance record with flat roof leaks, extensive use of asbestos and large areas of single glazing cold in winter and too hot in summer and nick-named a 'Collection of Loosely Assembled Steel Parts'!



Just a few of our many Independent School appointments on site!

Sevenoaks School Science & Technology and Sixth Form Centres



The new Science & Technology and Sixth Form Centres project at Sevenoaks School is well underway. The new facility will bring together all four core fields of science and technology under one roof for the first time, as well as providing a focus for higher education advice. Facilities will also be provided to assist Sixth Form students in studying for the International Baccalaureate, as well as for their recreational and social spaces. The new building has a multi-purpose space to accommodate examinations, lectures, exhibitions and other gatherings. At the time of writing works to the concrete frame are progressing well and the specialist 'Pudlo' system waterproof concrete is complete. Brickwork is due to commence in April, utilising handmade bricks, ordered almost 12 months ago to ensure they could be made in time. The project is due for completion in Spring 2018.



Town Close School



Works have just started on site for an extension and alterations to the School's pre-preparatory school to allow for expansion of the nursery department and creation of additional office space. The project will also include a new Year 2 block which will be of modular construction. Phase one of this £1 m project is due for completion August 2017 with phase two in mid-October.

Cranleigh Academic Centre



Synergy are currently working with Cranleigh School on their exciting Masterplan, the roll-out of which is underway. The current phase comprises a modern new teaching facility for Humanities, English, Business Studies and Learning Support. The new accommodation, which was granted planning permission in September 2016, will provide 24 additional classrooms together with a boardroom, WC's, library and office accommodation for teaching staff. Works are due to start on site in April 2017.

Caterham School Sports Pavilion



Works are on site at Caterham School to construct a new Sports Pavilion. The new building provide changing facilities on the ground floor and dedicated hospitality space on the first floor with fantastic views over the adjacent pitches. The £3.5m project is due for completion in September 2017.

Walthamstow Hall Sixth Form Centre



The new four storey sixth form centre at Walthamstow Hall is starting to take shape. This £4m project includes classrooms, study areas and communal spaces. All students will benefit from additional science and technology labs located on the top floor. This project is due for completion in Autumn 2017.

Tonbridge School Science Development



Synergy are managing the extension of the main school to provide a state-of-the-art science department. This project is a part of a major programme of redevelopment and modernisation intended to reflect the school's prestigious reputation. Synergy have been involved with many previous projects, with this the biggest yet commissioned by the school.



To facilitate the main science development, a two storey science village is being installed using Premier Modular buildings. The science village will allow the science department and pupils to move out of their existing accommodation with no disruption to teaching and learning. Although these are temporary modules, they offer excellent lab and classroom facilities equal to or better than the current facility.

The £2 million temporary build project will be finished and ready for occupation after the summer holidays. Tonbridge school's main science redevelopment is anticipated to cost in the region of £17 million and will take 2 years to complete.



Timber slats continue along the internal balcony surround on the remodelled second floor.

Tonbridge School's transformed library on the bestsellers list

Synergy were appointed to provide Cost Consultancy and Project Management Services for the recent extension and reconfiguration of Tonbridge School's iconic Smythe Library. Following careful consideration of various options, extensions were built to both the north and south sides of the building on this £3.57 m project.

A striking new glass stair and lift tower has been added to the south side of the building, improving access and delivering more natural daylight to the building. On the north side a new entrance lobby extension to both the lower ground and ground floor has been added out onto the Quad. The upper ground floor extension provides additional natural light through its aluminium framed curtain walling system.

The removal of various internal walls within the lower ground floor level has transformed the existing storage area into an open group study area and learning support offices.

Timber slats provide sound absorbing wall lining around the lift core and this feature continues along the internal balcony surround on the remodelled second floor. An existing bay window structure and glazing to all floors has been replaced, with the installation of new bespoke desks fitted into the bays to create individual study areas. The ground floor has a new café providing a comfortable meeting space for students, which can be accessed from the existing covered walkway known as 'the runway'. A new stone external staircase from the Quad provides additional access to the upper ground floor into the glazed café lobby.



Schools to receive £415 million to transform facilities and help pupils get healthy start to life

Education Secretary Justine Greening recently announced that schools are to receive £415 million to help pupils benefit from healthier, more active lifestyles. The healthy Pupils Capital Programme will be funded from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy to be made available to schools in the 2018/2019 financial year. Schools and sixth-form colleges will be able to take advantage of this to pay for facilities to support PE, after-school activities and healthy eating. They will also be able to use this funding to improve facilities for children with physical health conditions or support young people with mental health issues.

All state-funded primary, secondary and sixth-form schools in England will be eligible to receive the funding through one of two mechanisms:

- All local authority community, foundation and voluntary-controlled schools will receive an allocation through a central formula, which will account for pupil numbers. Voluntary-aided schools will also be funded in this instance as part of the local authority allocation. Also eligible will be MATs that currently qualify for a direct school condition capital allocation. Responsible bodies will then make spending decisions based on local context.
- Smaller MATs, single-academy trusts and sixth-form colleges will be eligible to bid for funding through a new Healthy Pupils Capital Fund.

It is understood that information on the allocation formula, spending guidance and bidding criteria will be published in the summer of 2017 at which time Synergy would be pleased to advise our school clients about the bidding process and the implementation of associated projects.

Synergy announces new Partner appointment for the Bath Team

We are pleased to welcome Karen Sandford who joins our Bath office as a new Partner.

Karen is a highly experienced quantity surveyor specialising in a wide range of projects predominately within the commercial sector. Prior to joining Synergy, Karen worked with Rex Procter & Partners for 19 years as a Quantity Surveyor before her appointment as a Director in 2010.

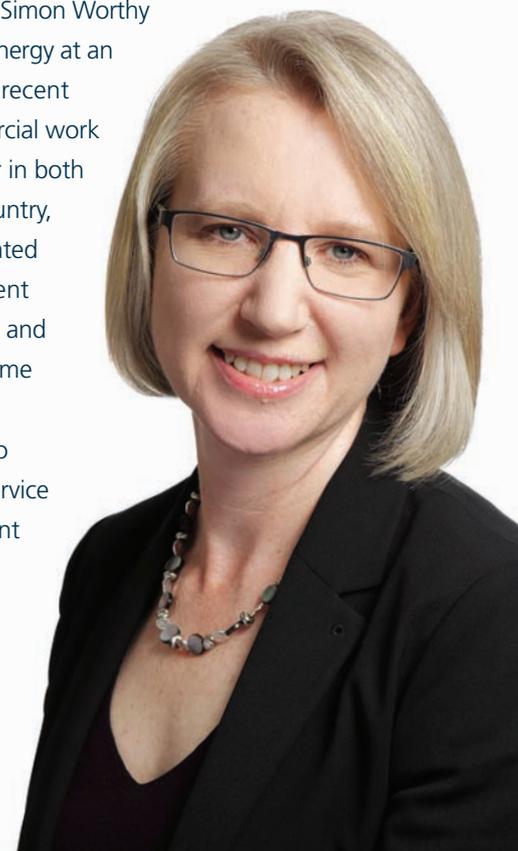
Karen's range of projects is diverse including major regeneration schemes, retail developments and infrastructure works as well as smaller projects including commercial refurbishments and extensions.

Karen remarked, "I'm thrilled to have been given the opportunity to join Synergy. As a forward thinking and people orientated business they are exactly the organisation I am looking to spend the next stage of my career with."

Commenting on Karen's appointment

Synergy's Senior Partner, Simon Worthy said, "Karen is joining Synergy at an exciting time. With the recent development of commercial work in the automotive sector in both Wales and the West Country, Karen will be ideally located to serve our existing client base. My fellow Partners and I are delighted to welcome Karen to the business.

Her strong work ethic to provide a high quality service to achieve excellent client relationships is a good fit with our own ethos. We look forward to working with her to further expand our client portfolio from our South West office base"



Works Underway on Framlingham College's Fowler Pavilion

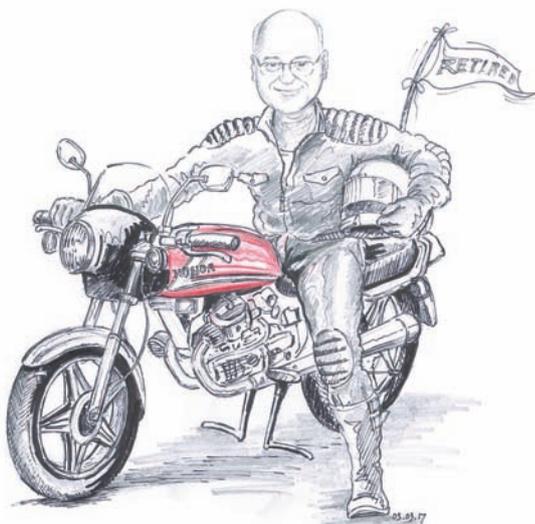
Works are underway on a new pavilion building at Framlingham College, Suffolk. The project is largely due to a generous legacy from Yela Fowler in memory of her late husband Derek Fowler DFM who joined the Royal Air Force on leaving Framlingham College in 1940. Derek was one of the youngest pilots — (and actually quite possibly the youngest!) — to win the Distinguished Flying Medal in the Second World War. During the war he served with Bomber Command on 38, 69, 77 and 635 Squadrons flying the Wellington, Halifax and eventually Lancaster bombers on the Pathfinder Force. After the war he flew as a commercial pilot and became the personal pilot for the Greek shipping magnate, Niarchos. Governors took the decision to build the new pavilion adjacent to the old cricket pavilion and to reflect some of the features of the 2014 sixth Form Centre (for which Synergy also provided project management services) on the opposite side of the cricket pitch. The design and build project started just before Christmas and continued uninterrupted even during the winter months. Strategically positioned between the cricket pitch and the two all weather hockey pitches, the new building is timber frame, fabricated off-site providing a swift construction solution. The project is forecast to be completed on programme in early June.

The pavilion will provide a multi-use function space and will offer parents, students and visitors spectacular views over the adjacent cricket and hockey pitches whilst enjoying refreshments in comfortable surroundings. It will also be used as a room for presentations and lectures, and the new accommodation also provides six changing rooms, toilet facilities, kitchen and servery. Synergy are providing Cost Consultancy and Employer's Agent Services on this exciting project.



The project continued uninterrupted even during the winter months.

'On your bike' now Denis



It's 'Good-bye' to one of the founding Members of Synergy. Denis Ulyet originally joined Parker & Browne in 1976, gaining his professional qualification in 1981, he became an Associate in 1987, became a Partner of CM Parker Browne in 1991 and a founding Partner of Synergy in 2007. A highly skilled QS, Denis has worked on a vast range of projects, with particular experience in education, high-end residential and ecclesiastical projects. Denis was also a consultant to Tesco for many years.

We wish Denis all the best as he moves into retirement. However, Denis will not be playing golf or gardening; instead, he will be reaching for his tools to restore his Honda CX 500, and then don his leathers to pursue his passion, which is life on the open road!

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