

# SKYLINE

ISSUE 12

COMPETITION

## Win!

£30 of Amazon vouchers

PAGE 22



# DECADE in review

Ten years, hundreds of storeys  
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High & mighty – Building Birmingham's tallest tower PAGES 8-9

Hit the road – Getting our steel to our sites PAGES 10-11

Home working – Are you sitting comfortably? PAGES 18-19



## CEO NOTE:

## ALAN DUNSMORE

I'd like to thank everyone, whether at home, on site or in our factories, for the tremendous support and professionalism you've shown, as well as the care and compassion towards each other, over what's been an incredibly difficult start to the year.

**I**t's thanks to each and every one of you that our business has been able to keep moving forward.

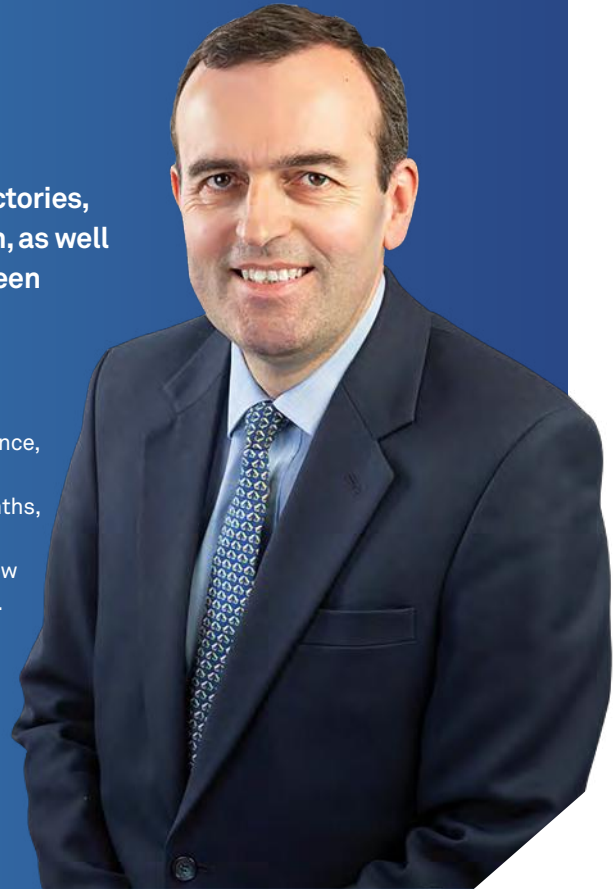
If these past few months have taught us anything, it's that we're living in uncertain times. Construction work is continuing and steel is still being fabricated to feed our order book, which remains strong. But we must be under no illusion that the tough times are over; we may have some more uncertainty to face in the future.

If we continue to work together, I'm confident we will have the patience, understanding and resolve to get through the coming weeks and months, and come out of this stronger and more determined to adapt to the new world and the possibilities it brings.

I thank you all for your continued support.

*Alan*

Chief Executive Officer



## MEET OUR NEW HR DIRECTOR: SAMANTHA BROOK

"Everybody has potential. Tapping into it and bringing people's natural talent out is what I love. Laying the right foundations to make this possible for everyone is the first priority for me." Just a few months into her role, Severfield's new Group HR Director, Samantha Brook, is determined to hit the ground running.



"We've all been through a very difficult period together," Sam says, "but what's really shone through is how loyal our people are. That's what motivates me most about working here."

It's this loyalty, Sam says, that's been at the heart of our growth as a company. But it's a growth that continues to offer its own unique challenges.

"It's important to me that we never lose our individual businesses' unique cultures," she says. "People are rightly proud of working for our locations throughout the UK. I'll be focusing on how we keep hold of that, while making everyone feel they're stronger together."

There are bigger challenges too – not least in the way the working landscape has changed over the past few months.

"We haven't got all the answers," Sam says. "The world of work is moving faster than we've ever known. What's important is that we take the best of what we've learned during these tricky times and find a way to come out of this with a structure that works for everyone, from manufacturing to sites to the offices. We're all in this together, and it's HR's job to help the business make the right changes to unlock the true potential of each and every one of us."

*"We've all been through a very difficult period together, but what's really shone through is how loyal our people are. That's what motivates me most about working here."*

## PROJECT SHERLOCK, WORKSOP

# ROLE MODEL



**What does it take to construct a huge distribution centre on a fresh new industrial park? Before a single sheet of steel comes off the lines, the building is created in the virtual world first.**

**1** That's where the skills of Project Technician Paul Foreman from Severfield (Design & Build) are so vital. Tekla software allows us to create 3D models of our structures, helping architects, clients, fabricators and project managers visualise every aspect. Building it virtually first helps guide them through the process from concept to construction.



Paul says: "I start with a basic model, move on to the detailing stage to add connections and finally produce fabrication drawings for the factory. All issues need solving before an area can be sent to fabrication.

"My first role was to take the measurements from our design department and build up the frame, defined by the architect, UMC. Increasingly, we're seeing modelling software used, rather than drawings."

### THE INSIDE STORY

He continues: "I look at the architect's model and check it over – everything from staircases to toilets! In this case, the project needed a large amount of coordination between the structure, internal racking system and conveyor layout."

Then it's a case of getting orders in for the steel so it arrives in time for fabrication, plus a lot more back and forth between the team to get the model perfect.

### TIME MANAGEMENT

So far, so good. But the real world isn't quite as straightforward as the virtual one, as Project Manager Dominic Coates explains. Building a five-span, 2,500-tonne portal frame in storm conditions isn't exactly plain sailing – especially in a 14-week construction programme.



"This started as a relatively straightforward project, but things soon took an unexpected turn," Dominic says.

"The main contractor is notorious for tight programmes and pushing the site teams and other trades to the limit." But as Dominic reveals, the tight programmes didn't allow time for changes, of which there were quite a few.

"With six bases miscast on site halting construction, and three back-to-back storms in February, the project has overrun somewhat," Dominic says. "It's been a very challenging build but a full team effort from everyone at Severfield (Design & Build). It shows how, if things change, not even Mother Nature can hold us back from delivering our clients' requirements."



#### FACT FILE

LOCATION:	Worksop
CLIENT:	DHL
MAIN CONTRACTOR:	TSL Limited
ARCHITECT:	UMC
TONNAGE:	2,500
SEVERFIELD:	Design & Build



*"This started as a relatively straightforward project, but things soon took an unexpected turn."*

**DOMINIC COATES, PROJECT MANAGER**



## KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON

# KNIGHTSBRIDGE CALLING

With a plot sandwiched between Harvey Nichols and Harrods, you know you're dealing with a prestige development. That's why we're proud to be part of the Knightsbridge project.

**2** Designed by Fletcher Priest Architects, the scheme sits within the shell of an existing building, between Brompton Road and Sloane Street in the heart of Knightsbridge.

"Working behind a brick facade is tricky," says Project Manager Darren Brockhouse. "We've got a seven-storey development with the usual beams and rafter work on the roof, but there's the additional complication of fitting these in between an existing structure."

On top of this, one of the storeys features a residential concrete structure with the requirement for the steel framework to interface into the existing via encast connections, welded details and drill-and-fix connections. "Working so close to the interface is challenging,"

Darren says. "Often it's a case of cutting and carving the steel to make it fit."

### HIGH HOPES

The 142-week programme will create modern, high-end retail and office space and 35 residential units. Retaining the site's historic facades is key: this is an area with a streetscape that's known around the world.

And with property prices exceeding £20k per square metre, every historic brick matters!

But the skyline will change – a little: "There's a new restaurant level being constructed on the roof," says Darren.

All of which means plenty of steel needs to be delivered, and erected.

"Laydown on this site is extremely limited, to say the least. Where possible, we are running a just-in-time delivery system and erecting where we can as the steel is delivered," Darren says. "Our site team has to ensure that the previous work's phase is complete and decked so that enough laydown area is created for follow-on works to meet the programme. This means careful planning throughout the whole lifecycle, from fabrication to transport, delivery to construction.

"Because of the space restrictions, the steel frame has to be erected on two fronts, moving away from each other in a clockwise motion to ensure the tower cranes don't hinder each other.

"Once a phase is constructed, we get it decked to use as laydown for follow-on phases and we repeat the process until we reach the roof."



Darren Brockhouse



#### FACT FILE

LOCATION:	London
CLIENT:	Carraig Investments
MAIN CONTRACTOR:	Skanska
ARCHITECT:	Fletcher Priest
TONNAGE:	1,090
SEVERFIELD:	Severfield (UK)



## CENTRE PARK LINK BRIDGE, WARRINGTON

# BUILDING BRIDGES

FACT FILE

LOCATION:	Warrington
CLIENT:	Warrington Borough Council
MAIN CONTRACTOR:	Balfour Beatty
ARCHITECT:	Ramboll
TONNAGE:	200
SEVERFIELD:	Severfield (UK)

It's great when a plan comes together. And with meticulous groundwork, a team working closely and collaboratively together, and the weather gods shining on you, that's exactly what happened for the crew responsible for delivering the Mersey's latest cross-river bridge.

**3** "It all went through with minimal effort and it was a wonderfully unexceptional project – for all the right reasons," says Project Manager Gary Dooley.

But to get this unexceptional, you need an exceptional team doing what comes naturally: simply getting the job done.

The job in question? Severfield (UK) was contracted by Balfour Beatty to supply, fabricate, paint, transport and erect the structural steelwork for the Centre Park Link Bridge in Warrington.

"The bridge sections were delivered to site in nine separate braces and assembled on temporary trestles to form the three sets of braced pairs using a 150-tonne mobile crane," Gary explains.



wagons, get off-loaded and assembled - all 150 tonnes of it," he says. "We assembled the braces off line and access was tight.

"Once assembled, each of the 45-metre-long sections weighing approximately 65 tonnes were transported to the erection area using SPMT units (self-propelled modular transporter)."

"We were lucky that the ground condition was excellent, with good hard standing," says Gary, "and there were no road closures needed because the road wasn't constructed yet!"

"Erection of the three bridge sections was carried out using the mobile crane and the bridge was successfully erected over two days in January."

"This is what I do every day," says Rob, "so it doesn't seem that unusual, but at the end of the day, we've built a new bridge over the Mersey and it all went perfectly!"



### A PLAN COMES TOGETHER

For Construction Manager Rob Davies, it was all about planning. "The crane has to come in at the right time, via 12 support

## 103 COLMORE ROW, BIRMINGHAM



# HIGH AND MIGHTY



### FACTFILE

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Birmingham
<b>CLIENT:</b>	Sterling Property Ventures
<b>MAIN CONTRACTOR:</b>	BAM Construction
<b>ARCHITECT:</b>	Doone Silver Kerr
<b>TONNAGE:</b>	2,400
<b>SEVERFIELD:</b>	Severfield (NI)

It's set to be Birmingham's highest tower, rising from the highest point in the city. 103 Colmore Row is a tall order, but Severfield (NI) is rising to the occasion.

103 Colmore Row might well be a huge, soaring new landmark for England's second city, but for Site Manager Alan Dilworth, there was an even bigger, supersized challenge to face.

"There was next to no laydown in this site," he says, "and the building has a small footprint, which gets even smaller the higher up you go because it's stepped back with two bays, so the space you've got for steel is next to non-existent!



"To get the steel up, we needed to make sure all the decking was done, floor by floor. Timings were tight. Steel had to come on site, be lifted into position, erected and used as the laydown for the next floor." To compound the complexities, very early on in the build, the site crew had to take delivery of four huge beams – four 20-tonne columns that rise to the fourth floor and, from that point on, take the weight of the rest of the 22 floors above them.

"From the ground floor, rising to the fourth, the design called for what the architects describe as a 'Winter Garden,'" explains Project Manager David McGurk. "This is to be a light-filled, open-plan space, topped off with an overhang at level four, above the atrium. It's quite striking, but not just an aesthetic feature: the columns need to support that overhang and all the floors above it on the east side."

David McGurk



## TAKING THE STRAIN

“They’re the focus of the whole building,” David adds. “The steel needed a high decorative coating because of that. The columns are the stars of the show, really.” “It was really intense,” Alan says. “First we had to get them on site – no easy matter when you’ve just one road closure over a weekend in October and a very narrow bus lane to get the transporter down.”

“They were so big they were out of the capacity of the tower cranes,” David says. “We had to install them with a 250-tonne mobile crane, which we had to get into the site too, in a city centre with no room for manoeuvre – not easy! If you miss the boat, the rest of the structure falls behind. These things are 20 metres in length, so you can imagine the huge logistical exercise, not to mention the complex temporary bracing scheme we needed to tie them back to until the rest of the steel was in place to support them.”

## WIND STOPS PLAY

Then, of course, there was the small matter of the storms. Three of them, lined up and ready to wreak havoc throughout February, just when they were ready to install an 18-tonne transfer beam. “We had to split that one in two so the tower crane could lift it up,” Alan says.

But first, they had to wait until the wind would let the crane do its work.

“We got the steel over here from Northern Ireland, no problem,” says Alan, “but it had to sit it out in Liverpool docks for a while as we were winded off.”

“We took a bad knock with the wind,” says David. “The cranes have to stop when gusts reach 55kph and we were regularly exceeding that.”

The wind also had a role to stopping play in another part of the build, as Alan explains: “We had to install two sets of steel stairs up the whole side of building, but because they were at the back and closed off on three sides, we needed to use suspended access cradles to get at them to weld and bolt all the connections. You don’t want to be in one of them in a storm!

“It’s been a challenge, but we’re hoping the weather will be kinder to us now to get us back on track.”





**CHRISTOPHER BEACOM  
IS GROUP TRANSPORT  
MANAGER FOR OUR  
GROUP SERVICES TEAM  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND.**

"I oversee everything that moves in the Group. Each division's team organises the day-to-day loads for their branch and we push around 250 loads to sites every week.

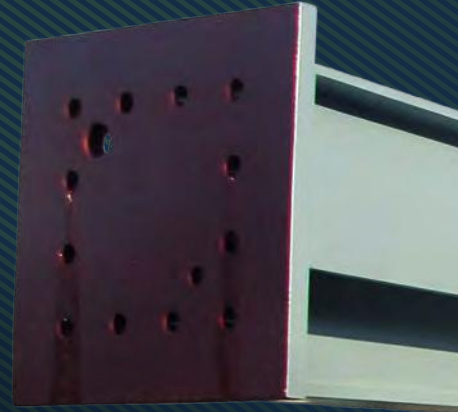
"WS Transportation, based in Runcorn, is our one-stop shop. The team is invaluable to us and we work really closely with them.

"We meet once a month to give them a heads-up about what's coming down the line. We use about 225 of their trailers, so they need plenty of warning about the jobs we've got coming up over the next six months or so.

"The phones never stop ringing. We're in constant contact with the sites to let them know how things are moving – or not! Things have moved on a lot in my time. When I started, we just had pens and paper and a phone. Now we have a live tracking system, so we can tell where any load is at any time. When you've got a crane standing waiting, you need to hit your time to off-load. That's not easy if you've got a 40-foot truck trying to get into the centre of London!

"Traffic is a constant battle. Road closures, special loads ... and Monday mornings too! With about 400 drivers, there's always a few who don't turn up to work. It's a case of jumping on it, making the sites know and making other plans."

What does it take to keep a company like Severfield on the move? Apart from the flatbeds and forklifts, it takes split-second timing, meticulous precision and lots of patience – especially when all those best-laid plans get snarled up in traffic! We speak to the teams who get our steel to our sites.



# ROUTE MASTERS



**PETER HINDLEY, TRANSPORT  
COORDINATOR, OVERSEES  
TRANSPORT AT OUR LOSTOCK  
SITE FOR SEVERFIELD (UK).**

"A lot of transport planning and coordinating here takes longer because we're set up to fabricate steel that's often bigger, heavier and more complex than some of our other branches. When it's ready to leave the bays, the structures need specialised haulage from firms such as Collett or JB Rawcliffe to get it to site.

"It's hard to put an average on it but we shift between 15 and 20 loads a week and they can be up to 100 tonnes. We're talking huge sections of bridges or complex roof trusses, so every load is a feat of organisation and logistics.

"With huge loads like this, planning can take a couple of weeks. We might need a police escort, road closures or night-time possession of central London streets. If that's the case, we need to get everything done by 6am.

"We have 28 15-tonne side loaders on site, as well as a 10-tonne front loading forklift, shunt wagons and a Combilift – everything we need to move steel around.

"I take every day as it comes. Even with the most careful planning, you have to leave room for the unexpected. I've worked here for 43 years – there's a lot more traffic these days!"



### IAN POPE IS THE LOGISTICS MANAGER FOR SEVERFIELD (UK) IN DALTON.

"We organise up to 20 site loads a day. Right now, we've got 14 sites and we supply them with everything they need.

"Every week, the site managers send through a load request. We make sure all the loads will be ready to go. After that, we get it processed with WS Transportation and arrange the right trailers. Then it's a case of getting the steel on the trailers – no mean feat!

"We spend most of our days dealing with load alterations. When sites have issues and can't take a delivery, we can load more to another site. And when a site goes on hold, all the systems must be changed. I couldn't do it without my two dispatch controllers, Sophy Lane and Caroline Ward.

"We also look after all the trucks that offload the steel from the mill. We maintain and service them to keep the place running smoothly. We have a fleet here: Baumann's, side loaders and all-terrain front loaders.

"Basically, everything that moves – from lorries used to empty the bins to minibuses – is our responsibility.

"We have a team of 40 working across days and nights. They use iPads to keep on top of load requests, check our yard manager and adjust where necessary. Of course, if a load doesn't come on time, we're the first to hear about it. You need a thick skin in this department!"

### TREVOR SHARPE IS PAINTSHOP & DISPATCH OPERATIONS MANAGER, RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTING STEEL FROM NI SITE FOR SEVERFIELD (NI).



"I've been working for Severfield for 23 years and every day is different. My main role is to work with the production team at our factory and the site teams to ensure we keep them fed with enough steel each week. At NI, we differ slightly from the other business units as we need to send things further in advance due to the small problem of the Irish Sea being between us and them! We try to keep a buffer of loads on the right side of the water as we can't have steel on site the next day like the Severfield (UK) factories. This is vital; if the weather changes, boats can be stopped for a few days until it clears and we can't

afford to have the sites stopped. The main bulk of our current projects are in the Republic of Ireland, so this has made things a little easier for now.

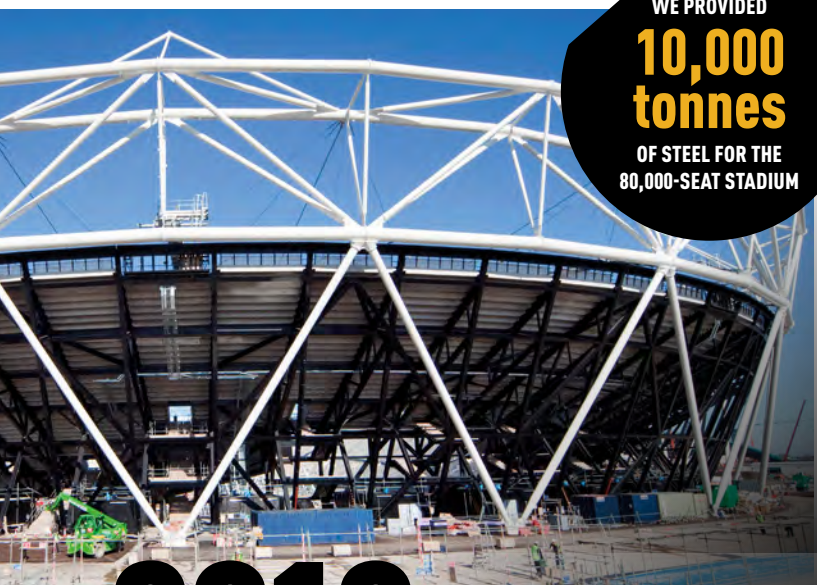
"We used to run a large fleet of forklifts at Severfield (NI) and build each load piece by piece. A couple of years ago, we purchased a Combilift machine, which can lift a full load of steel onto a trailer in one lift. This has been a massive success for us and has saved lots of time in loading trailers. This also keeps any handling damage to a minimum, so the guys are receiving their steel in pristine condition.

"Good lines of communication are vital to ensure the wheels keep turning."

Here we take a look at just a small selection of some of the projects Severfield has worked on in the last decade.

# 2010

## 2012 OLYMPIC STADIUM



WE PROVIDED  
**10,000 tonnes**  
OF STEEL FOR THE  
80,000-SEAT STADIUM

## THE SHARD

**12,500 tonnes**

OF OUR STRUCTURAL STEEL WAS NEEDED FOR WESTERN EUROPE'S HIGHEST TOWER



# 2010

AT THE HEART OF BELFAST'S TITANIC QUARTER SITS

**1,500 tonnes**  
OF OUR STRUCTURAL STEELWORK

## TITANIC BELFAST



## TRINITY LEEDS

**7,300 tonnes**

OF STEEL WAS USED FOR THIS SHOPPING CENTRE, WHICH HAD 130,000 VISITORS ON ITS OPENING DAY!



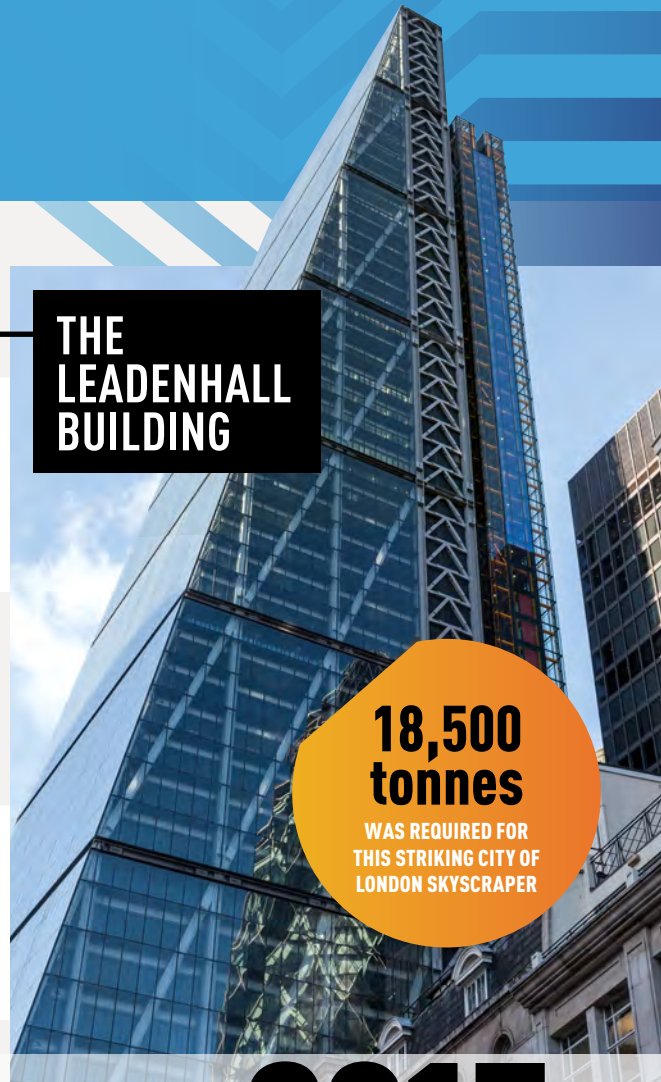
# 2020 A DECADE IN REVIEW

## FIRST DIRECT ARENA LEEDS



OVER A 44-WEEK PROGRAMME, WE CONSTRUCTED **4,000 tonnes** OF OUR STEEL

## THE LEADENHALL BUILDING



**18,500 tonnes**

WAS REQUIRED FOR THIS STRIKING CITY OF LONDON SKYSCRAPER

# 2015

## COVANTA WASTE



**4,500 tonnes**

OF STRUCTURAL STEELWORK WAS CONSTRUCTED FOR THIS PLANT, ABLE TO GENERATE ENOUGH ELECTRICITY FOR UP TO 80,000 HOMES

## WARNER BROTHERS

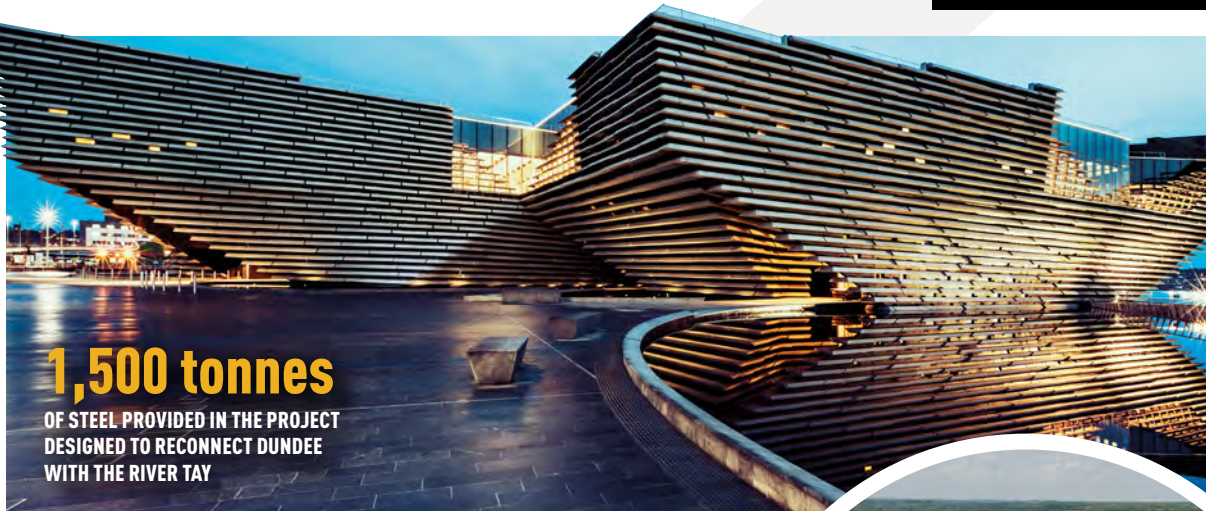


**1,500 tonnes**

OF STRUCTURAL STEELWORK WAS CONSTRUCTED FOR THE HARRY POTTER TOUR, WHICH WELCOMES 6,000 VISITORS A DAY DURING PEAK TIMES

# 2010 2020 A DECADE IN REVIEW

## V&A DUNDEE



**1,500 tonnes**

OF STEEL PROVIDED IN THE PROJECT DESIGNED TO RECONNECT DUNDEE WITH THE RIVER TAY



## MAGNA PARK

THE EXTENSION, WITH ITS **5,000 tonnes**

OF STEEL, GAINED SEVERFIELD (DESIGN & BUILD) THE 2018 BCSA PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

**3,000 tonnes**

CONSTRUCTED IN A TIGHT 11-WEEK PROGRAMME

## JAGUAR LANDROVER

# 2016

## ANFIELD MAIN STAND

**5,000 tonnes**

ANFIELD'S NEW STAND NEEDED OF STRUCTURAL STEEL - ADDING 8,500 SEATS TO THE HOME OF THE REDS

## COAL DROPS YARD

WITH ITS FAMOUS 'KISSING POINT', THIS PROJECT REQUIRED

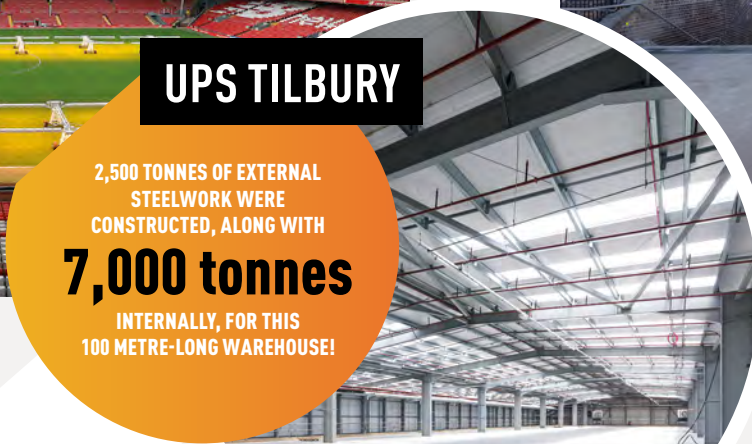
**1,350 tonnes**

OF OUR STEELWORK

## UPS TILBURY

2,500 TONNES OF EXTERNAL STEELWORK WERE CONSTRUCTED, ALONG WITH **7,000 tonnes**

INTERNALLY, FOR THIS 100 METRE-LONG WAREHOUSE!



## TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR



**7,000 tonnes**

OF STEEL PROVIDED AND CONSTRUCTED FOR THE NEW 63,000-SEAT STADIUM FOR SPURS

## ORDSALL CHORD



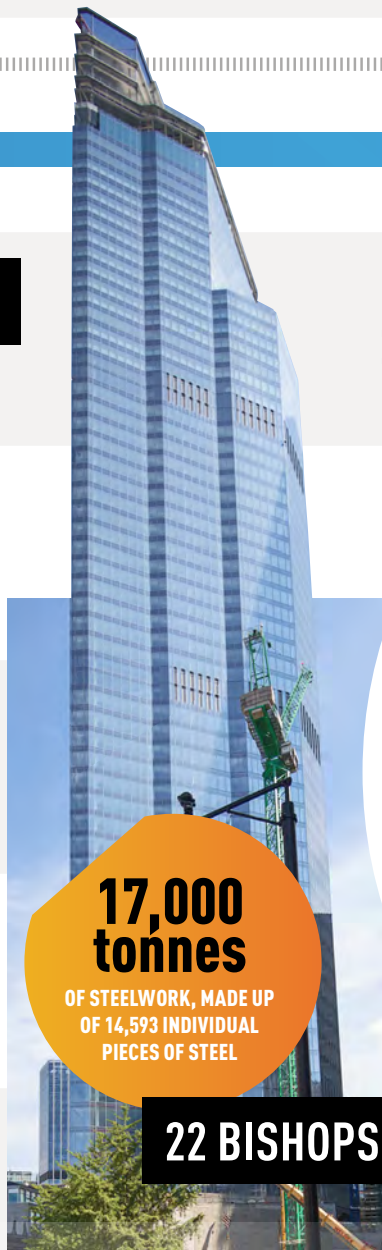
OVER  
**4,000 tonnes**

OF STEEL WENT INTO THIS DRAMATIC NEW MANCHESTER BRIDGE

**17,000 tonnes**

OF STEELWORK, MADE UP OF 14,593 INDIVIDUAL PIECES OF STEEL

## 22 BISHOPSGATE



**1,170 tonnes**

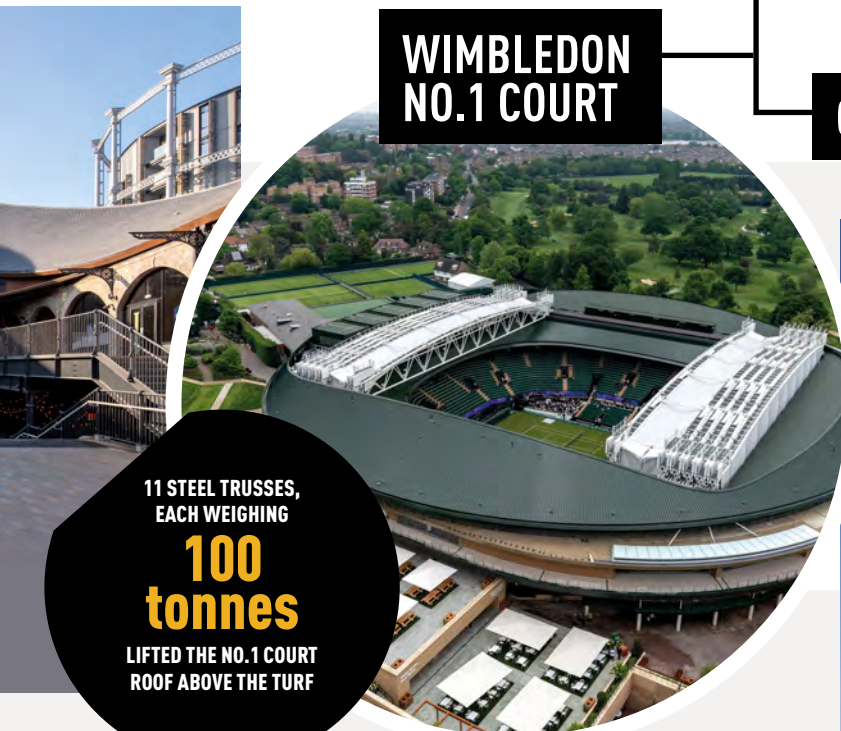
OF STEEL RISES ABOVE THIS NEW CROSSRAIL STATION IN LONDON

## FARRINGDON WEST



# 2020

## WIMBLEDON NO.1 COURT



11 STEEL TRUSSES, EACH WEIGHING

**100 tonnes**

LIFTED THE NO. 1 COURT ROOF ABOVE THE TURF

## GULFSTREAM

**1,320 tonnes**

OF STEEL WENT INTO THIS 236-METRE-LONG HQ AT FARNBOROUGH



## LORD'S, LONDON



## GOING ALL OUT

When the world's most famous cricket ground needed new stands, Severfield wasn't stumped.

**5** The 'home of cricket' has been welcoming the world's finest batsmen and bowlers since 1814, and when two existing stands saw their last innings, it was time to create two new ones flanking the stadium's media centre.

"The overall capacity is being increased by a couple of thousand, but the key focus is on reducing the amount of restricted-view seats and the additional hospitality areas

that the new stands will house," explains Project Manager Dominic Charlton.

"For us, that meant connection design, detailing, fabrication, supply and erection of steelwork, installation of pre-cast concrete, plus all the metal decking and steel stairs."

### A RETURN FIXTURE

Coordination and teamwork have been critical, but it's nothing the team hasn't experienced before, as Peter Gannon, Estimating Director, explains.

"We have a long history of working at Lord's, having built the previous Main Stand and also the two which are being demolished to make way for the New Stand.

"But the project is challenging in terms of the complex architectural steelwork and the tight timescale. There was less than a year for the old stand to be demolished, all the new piling and foundations installed and the new stand built, in time

#### FACT FILE

<b>LOCATION:</b>	London
<b>CLIENT:</b>	Marylebone Cricket Club
<b>MAIN CONTRACTOR:</b>	ISG
<b>ARCHITECT:</b>	Wilkinson Eyre
<b>TONNAGE:</b>	2,300
<b>SEVERFIELD:</b>	Severfield (UK)

for what was to be the new season."

A short window of opportunity was made even shorter by the value engineering process, which ensured the contract was as effective and cost efficient as possible.

"The plan is for all phase one construction works to be completed by early July 2020, around what would have been the start of the next cricket season," says Dominic, "so that's the main steelwork, steel stairs, metal decking and precast concrete.

"We won the tender on the basis of high-quality bid submission, backed up by presentations to show how we could deliver in the required timescale," says Peter.

"We've devised an innovative erection method and programme to meet the demanding expectations and we have delivered it."



# STEEL STORIES



Steel Erector **Daniel Etherington** has been building our flagship stadia and skyscrapers for almost a decade. We spoke to him about his high-flying ambitions and free-wheeling adventures.

## WHAT WERE YOU INTO AS A CHILD?

The Dark Knight! I was always into Batman as a young 'un. That moved on to rugby league. Sadly, injuries have stopped me playing, with the fear of not being able to work and pay the mortgage.

## WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

I did the usual paper round when I was about 11. I didn't think much of that but when I was in Year 11, I was voted 'most likely to make a million'. That hasn't happened yet. When I was 16, I worked in a corner shop near my mam's. I enjoyed that the most.

## TELL US HOW YOU STARTED WITH SEVERFIELD

I was coming up to 18 and needed a job. I talked to my stepdad, who worked at Dalton, and I handed in my CV. A week later, I had an interview and got offered two apprenticeships. I chose steel erecting.

## WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST DAY ON SITE LIKE?

After eight months in college, I was told that, on my first day, a van would pick me up from a service station to take me to work. There I was, sitting with blokes I'd never met, going to London to work away from home. All the way down I was as quiet as a mouse, determined not to annoy my new 'family'. After the initial jokes, they were all good eggs... mostly!

## WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE JOB YOU LIKE?

I like that I can step back at the end of the day and see what I've done, see what difference I've made: I'm changing the skyline of Britain. The friendships you make when working away are also unbeatable.

## WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE PROJECTS?

I've been on a few high-class jobs, from high-rises such as Leadenhall to bridges such as Ordsall Chord, but I enjoy stadiums the most. The fact you can see them on TV gives me ammunition to say 'I worked on that'. I'm sure my friends and family love that!

## WHY DID YOU WANT TO DO THE JOB?

Growing up, if you asked me what a steel erector was, I'd have stared blankly at you. I remember writing my CV and researching the job. I thought it was ace – the idea of getting paid to travel the country was awesome. I've seen some projects and places that people would pay hundreds of pounds to see.

## WHAT ARE YOUR OUT-OF-WORK INTERESTS?

Outside of work, I've always been into scooters. Once it gets under your skin, it just grows. I love it - it's a way of life. There's a saying: 'If I have to explain scootering to you, you'll never understand.' I love tinkering with my Lambretta. My father taught me most of what I know. Luckily for me, my foreman has the bug too.

## WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS?

The sky's the limit when it comes to my ambitions. I'll do any courses offered to me. A few years after I started, Barry Craig, Operations Director, came over and asked me, 'Where do you see yourself within Severfield, Dan?' I replied, 'I'll have your job soon!' Luckily, he laughed!



Working from home has its advantages: no commute and only one cup of tea to brew in the round! But spending your working day at your place doesn't automatically protect you from some common desk-based ailments...

# HEALTHY HOME WORKING



"I'd like to thank everyone for their social distancing, following of guidelines and continuing to work safely," says SHE Director Phillipa Recchia.

For some of us, though, working safely has called for a few new adjustments over the past few months. Here we explore some healthy home-working habits.

## SEEING CLEARLY

For some of our colleagues, eye health starts with PPE: protective eyewear, on site or in our factories, is simply non-negotiable. But what if you work at a desk? Computer vision problems are one of the main causes of eyestrain and poor eye health.

"Working from home often means you're spending even longer stretches in front of your computer screen, with no meetings to attend to other than those on Microsoft Teams. Taking regular breaks and focusing away from your monitor is even more important," says Phillipa.



## HERE'S FIVE EYE-WISE TIPS FOR STARTERS:

### 1 GET REGULAR EYE CHECKS

Routine eye exams are the most effective way you can monitor your vision and general eye health. Even if you don't think you've got any issues, it's still a good idea to check in with an optician once a year if you regularly use monitors.

### 2 GET THE LIGHTING RIGHT

Glare, either from the sun or harsh indoor lighting, is a major contributor to eyestrain. Turn your screen side-on to windows or try to position your workstation so that it's not directly underneath fluorescent lights.

### 3 DON'T STRAIN TO READ

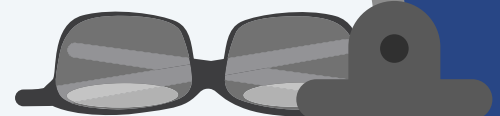
Adjust the text size, brightness and contrast (or colour temperature) of your display. A few tweaks can make for a far more comfortable and less fatiguing experience for your eyes.

### 4 EXERCISE YOUR EYES

Focusing fatigue is what happens when you stare at a fixed distance (such as your screen) for too long. Avoid it by shifting your gaze at least every 20 minutes or so, and look at something far away. Do this a few times, for at least 20 seconds.

### 5 BLINK MORE

Evolution has already provided us with the best prevention for dry eyes: blinking. People generally blink less often at a computer screen. So go on, blink! It's free and it really helps soothe irritated eyes.



SKYLINE



## OUR SENIOR HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISOR MARK RICHARDSON SHARES HIS TIPS.



### How important is good 'desk health'?

Good desk health is crucial. The human body is not designed for sitting for long periods: we're created to move around. Good desk habits – such as getting up and moving around at regular intervals – are essential.

### What are the warning signs we need to look out for?

In many cases, our body will tell us we need to change our workstation habits. Feeling fidgety or uncomfortable? A sure sign you need to move.

### What can we do to stay healthy in a desk-based job?

Take regular breaks to allow your back muscles to realign, your spine to straighten out and your shoulder muscles to relax.

### Is it OK to use a dining chair?

Yes, as long as you don't slouch. This adds a great amount of pressure to the lumbar area of the back. Sit up straight – fortunately, a formal dining chair might help with this!

## ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?

Poor posture can make your eyes strain even more, not to mention storing up back niggles or even something more serious. "Few of us have the luxury of a perfect workstation and proper office chair at home," Phillipa says. "Making do with your kitchen table and chair is fine in the short term, but try to find a set-up that means you're not stooping forward and your computer screen is about 50cm to 60cm from your eyes."

# FIT FOR PURPOSE



The first Severfield 40 Weeks of Fitness Challenge raised more than money: it also lifted the spirits of all who were prepared to go the extra mile – not least its organiser, Heather Williams.

**O**ur first ever fitness challenge saw more than half of our Severfield (NI) employees rise to the occasion and embark on a 40-week programme of running, cycling, swimming – anything at all that meant getting off the sofa in the name of charity.

For health and fitness-mad Senior Legal Advisor Heather Williams, it was a great success and proof that, when a challenge is laid down, we'll rise to it!

"We completed the challenge in December," says Heather. "Almost half of those who enrolled completed it, which isn't bad considering it was the first time we'd

tried something like this."

The idea was simple: each person who took up the challenge agreed to pay a minimum amount of money from their salary and was issued with a Fitbit by Severfield. Points were awarded for each activity recorded, and for all those who met or exceeded their target, the money that they paid went to charity. For those who did not meet the challenge, the money was used to buy their Fitbits.

"When the Fitness Challenge colleagues came on board, the competitive element was amazing," adds Heather. "We had to tell them to calm down; one chap was walking 16 miles a night!"

## A HEALTHY START

The first challenge raised more than £4,000 for the Foundation's nominated charities, but just as importantly, it's made a whole host of colleagues healthier and happier.

"I'm passionate about seeing people getting healthier and fitter," says Heather, who finds time to run a youth running club, coach school cross-country teams and ride her prized horse when she's not at work.

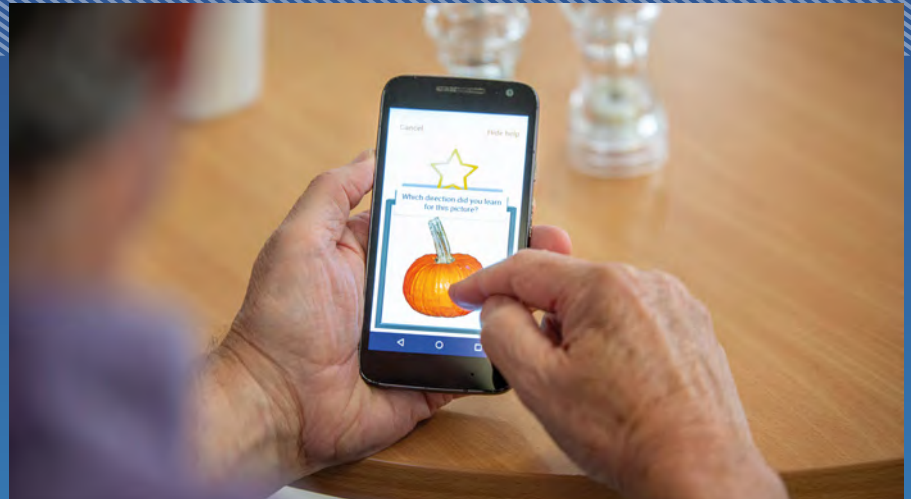
"Doing things like this means you're fitter and you're generally happier. What's not to like?"

"This is all about those people who said they'd never go out walking, but who came out of their comfort zone and are still active even after the challenge is over. One person told me he brought his entire family together on a Sunday to go to the swimming pool. When it filters down into the family like that, that's when it makes all the difference."



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHALLENGE'S WINNERS:

Jonathan Wallace, winner of the male category, and Donna Hicks, winner of the female category. Each won a day racing voucher for Silverstone Circuit. Wendy Veitch was second female and Eimear Corrigan third. In the male category, Matt Dean took second place and Allister Jackson third place.



# TRAIN YOUR BRAIN AND HELP ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

Finally, a good excuse to play on your phone: it's all in the name of research!

**A**lzheimer's Society, our official Foundation charity partner, needs thousands of people across the UK to become 'GameChangers' by downloading its app and playing a series of free brain games for five minutes a day, every day, for a month.

"GameChanger is a research project led by the University of Oxford and supported by us," says Natasha Patel from the charity. "It will help us understand more about how the brain works to support research that could prevent, slow down or even stop the progression of dementia in future."

If researchers know more about how the brain works, they hope to be able to spot the very early changes in the brains of people with dementia in

**TAKING PART IS SIMPLE:**

1. Sign up to GameChanger research project
2. Download the app to your smartphone
3. Begin playing our brain games today

the future and use this information to develop new treatments.

The project uses a smartphone app with three brain games designed to provide researchers with vital clues as to how our brains work and how they change over time.

You can help us to understand how healthy brains function, think and work things out.

"We will combine your data with that of other people taking part in the study so that we can publish papers that will go to the scientific community," Natasha says.

TAKE

How good is your general knowledge? There's only one way to find out: quiz! Don't cheat: have a go and send your answers and full name to [communications@severfield.com](mailto:communications@severfield.com) with the subject 'Brain of Severfield'. Three lucky winners will be picked at random.



# BRAIN OF SEVERFIELD

## Name the year

- 1 ...that Blackburn Rovers won the Premier League
- 2 ...that *Platoon* won best film at the Oscars
- 3 ... that ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest

## Around the world

- 1 Which country's flag is this?



- 2 What's the capital of Venezuela?
- 3 What's the currency of Poland?

## Sound and vision

- 1 Whose debut album was called 'The Fame'?
- 2 Name this actress



- 3 Who wrote the soundtrack to the first *Bladerunner* movie?

**WIN!**  
THREE WINNERS WILL EACH RECEIVE £30 OF AMAZON VOUCHERS



## Lucky dip

- 1 Which team's home ground is called the Hard Rock Stadium?
- 2 In which soap does the actor Mikey North appear? And as which character?
- 3 What colour is the mineral called tanzanite?



## Anagram round

The first letter of each of these answers will spell out a Severfield project featured in our Decade in Review. Rearrange them and send your answers to us to stand a chance of winning £30 of Amazon vouchers

- 1 Which island group's capital is called Torshavn?
- 2 Who is this? .....
- 3 Which character did Maisie Williams play in *Game of Thrones*?
- 4 What's the Roman numeral for 50?
- 5 What's the name of the furthest planet in the solar system?
- 6 Who had hits with 'A Little Respect' and 'Sometimes'?
- 7 Who played DCI John Luther in the series 'Luther'?



## WINNERS' CORNER

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to last issue's winners. Each one will receive an Amazon Echo Dot.

- Laura Speakman
- Mark Gibson
- Tanya Cruikshank
- Neil Almack
- Steve Raw



Well done to Mike Wilson, our Stockyard Team Leader in Dalton, who used his inventory skills to overcome a manual handling obstacle on his side loader, making the refuelling and filter-cleaning process safer and easier.

**FROM WAYNE BARRON, PRODUCTION DIRECTOR, SEVERFIELD (UK)**

Congratulations to Gary Norman, Jonathan Pickering, Roger Moore, Alison Guffick, and Steve Kennedy on their success in winning the first order for Severstor. It took a combined team effort to demonstrate to the client, ABB, that Severfield (Products & Processing) could provide everything needed to secure their order. Also, huge well done to Steve Kennedy for securing the first Rotoflo order, following the recent purchase of the Rotoflo patent from Shepherd Group.

**FROM JIM MARTINDALE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, AND DAVID POUT, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, SEVERFIELD (PRODUCTS & PROCESSING)**



Shout out to little Toby Etherington (son of Steel Erector Dan Etherington) who looks simply cute in some of his dad's steel erecting gear.

**FROM MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

A big thank you to Charlie Joy for his hard work and creativity in building our new Connect intranet. Charlie designed and built our special coronavirus homepage in under a week and has lots more planned for the coming weeks. Well done, Charlie!

**FROM ANNA GRAY (HEAD OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS)**

## YOUR SHOUTOUTS

**If anyone you know has gone above and beyond, here's the place to show your appreciation with a shoutout!**

Thank you to Johnny Fleming, our site manager on the Encirc Project, whose personal commitment ensured we delivered a tricky project on time in this challenging period.

**FROM BARRY CRAIG, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**

I would like to thank the Dalton Maintenance Team, both days and nights, for their outstanding efforts and contribution to the changes we have made at the Dalton site during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am extremely proud of how they have worked together and also shown great respect to the new ways of working in order to stay safe.

**FROM JEREMY ROSE, DALTON MAINTENANCE MANAGER**

Jason Grief and Darren Johnson went above and beyond when protecting the high-end paint finish on some of our steel required on the Bluejay project, covering the packs with tarp. Thanks to both of you.

**FROM WAYNE STANTON, TEAM LEADER**



Thanks to Billy McGlynn, Site Engineer in Finland, who really stepped up during the COVID-19 crisis. The Severfield (NI) Site Manager for the project was unable to fly back out to Finland after a visit home due to the lockdown. Billy was already out there and stepped up to cover the Site Manager's duties in his absence. A real team player.

**FROM BARRY PRUNTY, SENIOR HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER**



Shoutout to Ian Pope, Andrew Mulholland, Dylan Sirrell, Wayne Stanton and Michael Wilson for their help and support during the flooding around Dalton in February. All of them made sure we were directed safely in and out of site.

**FROM MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Want to nominate someone for the next issue of *Skyline*? It's easy. Drop a line to us at: [communications@severfield.com](mailto:communications@severfield.com)

**SHOT**  
of the season

On site, with your team or a spectacular sight on the way to work – we want to know what your Severfield looks like.



# THE 'LANDSCRAPER'

The 'landscaper' is starting to take shape as Google HQ rises from London soil at King's Cross. Thanks to Micky Reilly, Senior Site Manger, for this great shot.



What's *your*  
shot of the season?

WE'D LIKE TO SEE MORE OF YOUR PHOTOS – PAST AND PRESENT – IN SKYLINE. IF YOU'VE GOT A PICTURE YOU'D LIKE US TO CONSIDER FOR SHOT OF THE SEASON, SEND IT TO US AT [communications@severfield.com](mailto:communications@severfield.com) AND IT COULD FEATURE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

**WANT TO FEATURE YOU AND YOUR TEAM IN THE NEXT ISSUE?**

 Severfield

If you've got a story about the work you and your team are doing, or if you want to be Guest Editor, a project photographer or be involved in any way, please get in touch! Email [communications@severfield.com](mailto:communications@severfield.com)

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