

## Northumberland's first academy opens its doors



In the seventh century the Venerable Bede was known as 'the father of English history' and, in its own way, the completion of the Bede Academy has continued in the same tradition by creating its own bit of history—certainly for the Emmanuel Schools Foundation, as it is the Foundation's first all-age academy to be constructed.

Bede, our fourth new build academy project in recent years, is the third we have undertaken for the Foundation. Situated in Blyth, Northumberland, the academy has been developed over two sites, replacing the former South Beach First, Wensleydale Middle and Ridley High Schools.

David Vardy, project director, Emmanuel Schools Foundation, said:

"Bede Academy is a local school primarily for the young people who live within its catchment area in Blyth.

"It is the fourth school we have built and, once again, we have worked with excellent partners in the design, construction and fitting out of the buildings.

"Because so many members of the team have seen the benefits the Emmanuel Schools Foundation brings to education they are all as committed as we are that each academy we build is of high quality and fit for purpose.

"It is great to see that the SURGO team shares our passion for providing high quality education."

### Latest News

#### Purrfect Project

Felledge Cattery, Durham, is benefiting from the vast experience of site manager, Joe Coyne, as work moves on apace to bring the former school building, now operated by the RSPCA, up-to-date.

Following on from an earlier project to partially renovate the building, this latest phase of transformation work includes an isolation room, surgery, meeting room, office accommodation and a new reception area. The project is currently on track to complete in April 2010.

## Project updates:

Throughout the year, we have continued to secure work which typifies our core business. This has included three social housing projects and further educational work. The following project updates demonstrate the type of projects on which we have built our reputation to become one of the region's most respected contractors and, as we were referred to recently, a local asset!

## Space to learn win

SURGO is delighted to have been appointed to a totally different educational project in Hartlepool.

The £1.25 million Space to Learn facility, hailed as a showcase for 21st century learning and teaching, will provide an innovative learning environment that will challenge conventional teaching methods.

The ground breaking has just taken place and work will get underway in earnest before Christmas.



Breaking the ground in Hartlepool

## Design and build scheme on target

We are currently on site at Sedgefield, working on behalf of Durham County Council, on a design and build project to deliver a 1,768sq.m production and clean room facility at Netpark, one of the region's fastest growing science parks.



Our Netpark project

The building, which is set out over two blocks, North and South, also incorporates office accommodation. Traditionally constructed with a steel frame, curtain walling and cladding, the building has been designed to achieve a BREEAM rating of Excellent. This project is scheduled to complete next March.

## Succession and success



As we moved into the next financial year, we reached another milestone in SURGO's history.

My son James, in a well deserved move, took over the reigns as Managing Director. It was a move which certainly makes me very proud and a move which has been planned for many years as part of our detailed succession plans. I wish James, his Board, and his team every success for the future.

We again can report an exceptional year, despite very difficult trading conditions and sadly, despite some necessary (minor) resizing of the business.

I firmly believe we have achieved this success by working together as a team, both at SURGO and with our clients and their consultants, and I cannot over emphasise the need for this team work ethic to continue.

The construction industry at present is a challenging proposition for us all, but I am confident that we can overcome this situation with our commitment to succeed and by continuing to challenge what we do. To retain our strong position, we must improve efficiency in everything we do. We can maintain our success by seeking continuous improvement.

As I approach 25 years with the company, I can reflect on the many changes that have taken place in that time and can truly say that the team

we have now is second to none. I am proud to have served you for so long and hand over to James with no doubt in my mind about the future success of SURGO Construction.

Thank you all for your continued support in the past and for the future.

Kind regards,

Ian Walker  
Chairman

## Platinum certificate

Committed to ensuring that we have a workforce which is as highly trained as possible, we are delighted to announce that the company has been awarded a platinum certificate under the CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme). Currently, over 95% of our workforce hold CSCS cards.

Donna-Marie Walker proudly displaying her platinum certificate

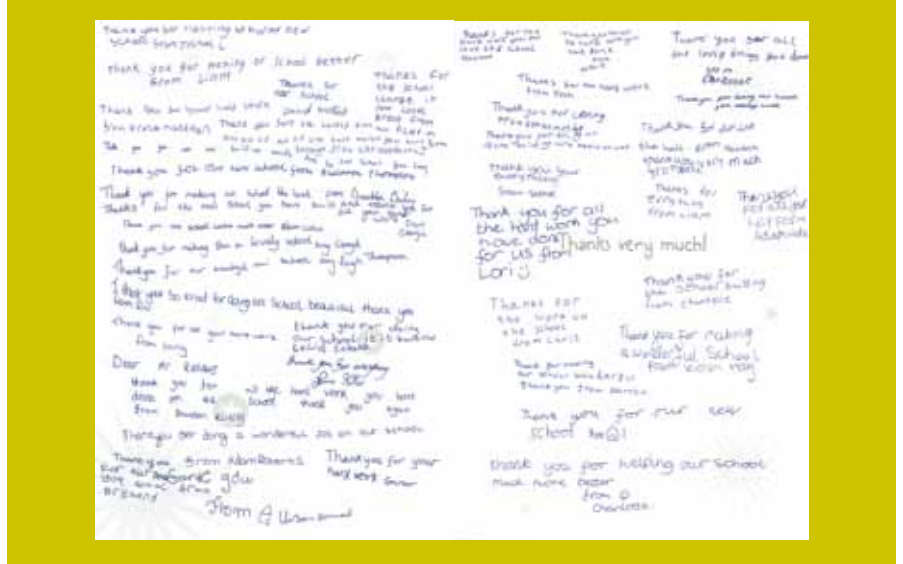


# Thoughts from the trenches

As always, we like to celebrate the achievements, be they personal or professional, of our many employees and this issue is no exception. Here goes with just some of their successes.

## A very special thank you!

'A job worth doing is worth doing well', is an adage we subscribe to on a daily basis at SURGO. However, when the work and positive attitude we live by is also recognised by our clients it makes us proud - and prouder still when that client goes the extra mile by making a special effort to thank us. Recently, on completion of The Holy Trinity Primary School, South Shields, Derek Riches was asked to attend the school and, to his surprise, was presented with a rather large 'thank you' card signed by the children.



Kind words from the children of The Holy Trinity Primary School, South Shields

## Quarter century reached

At SURGO we are well known for recruiting and, more importantly, retaining a highly skilled workforce and, to that end, we often have cause to celebrate a long service achievement. This year, some nine of our staff have together clocked up an amazing 275 years' service—a great achievement for any business and its employees! In this issue our thanks go to chairman, Ian Walker, site manager, Paul Graham and bonus surveyor, David Knight, all of whom celebrate 25 years with the company.

## Congratulations to...

Joiner Geoff Campbell, who ran the London Marathon in 2hrs 52mins and senior estimator John Askew, who completed his 17th Great North Run in 2hrs 5 mins. Both raised money for good causes.

Congratulations also to John Bewick on the occasion of his wedding and David Anderson, who is now the proud father of twin girls born in the summer and weighing in at a healthy 7lb 13oz each!

(back row l to r) Lee Sparrow, Lee Fish, Scott Murray, Dave Blyth, Darin Stephens  
(front row l to r) John Bewick and Graham Watson.

## Team effort

Working as a team is instrumental in our ability to keep clients happy by providing them with buildings that often exceed their expectations, some of which go on to become award-winning achievements. This theme has continued with our football team in a recent charity tournament win at Bede Academy.

