



Back on board with Severn Trent!

We were pleased to announce recently that we have been awarded a multi-million pound contract by Severn Trent Water to deliver three tunnelling projects and one pipeline project on the Elan Valley Aqueduct. The project will be delivered by our newly-formed joint venture with North Midland Construction Plc, the BNM Alliance.



Managing Director Andy Flowerday and Liv Garfield, CEO of Severn Trent Water, signed the contract for the project (pictured) at a gathering at the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) in London, accompanied by senior members of the BNM Alliance and Colin Church of Severn Trent Water.

important to renew our relationship with STW for AMP6 and beyond – and of course with our partners at North Midland Construction. I would just like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those involved."

Andy said: "The signing of this contract for another set of rock tunnels in Wales was a memorable occasion, and even more

The ICE was a fitting venue for the signing of this particular contract, as its Chairman back in 1900 was none other than James Mansergh, who also happens to be the original designer of the Elan Valley system.

The Elan Valley Aqueduct (EVA) is Severn Trent Water's (STW) biggest single source of raw water. It carries approximately 20% of STW's supply and feeds 1.2 million customers. Everyday 300 million litres travel down the aqueduct from mid-wales en-route to Birmingham!

The project that has been awarded to Barhale, in partnership with North Midland Construction consists of three offline replacements, in the form of a 3m diameter tunnels totalling nearly 5km and a pipeline scheme to improve an overflow arrangement.

In an exciting new collaboration, we also see STW's Strategic Grid Team co-locating at our Walsall office so that the start on-site date of October could be met and to take delivery of the new TBM early in 2016.



Pictured L-R: Colin Church, Asset Creation Infra Strategic Grid Manager, Severn Trent; Patrick Curran, Director Barhale; Robert Moyle, Chairman North Midland Construction; Andy Flowerday Managing Director, Barhale; Liv Garfield, CEO Severn Trent; Julie Smith, Commercial Director, North Midland Construction; Dennis Curran, Chairman, Barhale; Dave Shaw, Regional Director, Barhale.

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Welcome to the Winter edition of Barhale News.

The end of a year is always a good time to reflect back on what's been achieved – and for Barhale, 2015 has seen us meet the challenges of getting the new AMP6 frameworks off the ground, whilst continuing to deliver great performance for our customers!

Being 'Recognised as the Best' is fundamental to our long term Vision for Barhale – and we are proud to celebrate in this edition that the 'proof in the pudding is in the eating' so to speak, featuring recognition from our external stakeholders across our whole business!

Some are prestigious annual awards events – such as the Anglian Water's 'Love Every Drop' Awards – where the Market Harborough @ ONE Alliance team won the Environment and Community Award and the Thames Water's Annual Health and Wellbeing Awards – where we won the Best Practice in Health and Safety Collaboration – showcasing the benefit and power of effective collaboration both internally within the team and externally with a multiple number of high profile stakeholders – to deliver a critical asset protection scheme on the Victoria Embankment for Thames Tideway Tunnels team.

At the other end of the scale is the regular stream of positive feedback we get 'day in, day out' from customers and members of the public, who take the time to write in about our people acting responsibly in line with our Values. Phrases such as 'great work ethic'; 'Heroes of the A14'; 'taking care of the hidden things' 'courteous and friendly... gentlemen'; 'respect and consideration they have shown to us'. Doesn't it just make you feel so proud to be a part of a nationwide team that consistently displays the Barhale Values – and of course it supports our core belief that everyone can make a difference?

Speaking of our Values – that so well define our brand and culture – this year we proudly celebrated the 30th anniversary of when they were first formally written down and launched – to be used as a beacon and formula for successful growth and development. How insightful they were at that time – most definitely 'built to last'



Our centre pages feature those recognised as 'being the best' within Barhale at our 2015 Annual celebratory 3 Pillar Awards in October, which followed a ROSPA led H&S conference and supply chain innovation exhibition. We reflected on Dennis's 2014 3 Pillars Challenge events, which demonstrated how imaginative and creative our people can be when it comes to bringing the 3 Pillars Model to life throughout the business – and even beyond into our key supply chain partners and the local community!

As we transition from AMP 5 into AMP 6 we have seen a slow start for a variety of reasons, however the forecast for next year is for a significant upturn – and we are making the most of the quiet spell to get fully prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. In the meantime we have been successful in securing a number of new opportunities with new clients, as well as additional work for existing clients – across the whole business and in each of the regions, reflecting the positive recovery of the construction and infrastructure sectors.

The award by Severn Trent of the Elan Valley Aqueduct project has led to our re-engagement on their AMP6 Framework and is another successful step forward for our Midlands region – as well as providing a great opportunity to demonstrate our tunnelling capability on a major infrastructure project.

Collaboration is a key theme across the whole of our industry and is key for our future development and success – not only with our clients and supply chain - but also internally within the Barhale Group. We are already identifying synergies and potential efficiencies – utilising the assets, knowledge and skills in a more effective manner to the benefit of the group, our people and our customers alike. Our switch across to the iCloud platform is just one of a number of enhancements planned to help us collaborate and communicate more effectively.

So as a thought to the future – and on the basis that everyone can make a difference - please take a bit of time out to consider and grab the opportunities open to us all, to work more effectively together in 2016 and enjoy the TeamSpirit and sense of Pride in the process!

Finally I would like to extend a big Thank You to everyone who has contributed to another successful year for Barhale!

Best Wishes for Christmas to you and your families and looking forward to a safe, profitable and environmentally sustainable year ahead for us all!

Andy Jewesday

Happy 30th Birthday, Barhale Values!

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the official launch of Barhale's iconic Values in 1985. Barhale had been founded by our Chairman Dennis Curran five years previously and the business was already operating to Dennis' mantra of "treating others as you would wish to be treated", but the Values became the framework upon which this was based.

Since then the Values have stood us in good stead with clients, customers, suppliers and members of the communities in which we have worked. We are proud to stake our claim that each and every one of Our People can name these Values and work in line with them every day.

They are so important to our business that they appear on every Barhale-branded item, and so they should, as a daily reminder to us all of the philosophy and culture of our business, and as a way of communicating with external parties.

It is our recognition of these Values, which give us our good reputation and result in the positive feedback we receive week on week. They give us our unique culture, which has to be experienced to be truly understood. Most importantly, they give us a common goal to which we can all strive in our quest for What Good Looks Like.

Our Values

- We put safety at the top of every agenda
- Good communication is important in everything we do
- We are focused on providing a high quality service
- We enjoy an excellent teamspirit
- We adopt a caring approach towards people and our environment
- We take pride in what we do
- Our relationships are based on trust and integrity





spotlight on

Thames Water Ring Main shaft refurbishments

Site Agent Steve Best gives us the lowdown on these projects in Brixton and Stoke Newington

CLIENT: Thames Water

PROJECT: Brixton/Stoke Newington TWRM shaft refurbishment

LOCATION: London

VALUE: £325/800K

In Brief:

Constructed in the late 1980s/early 1990s, the Thames Water Ring Main (TWRM) is a major part of London's water supply infrastructure and is constructed of concrete pipelines to store and transfer potable water from water treatment works (WTWs) in the Thames and River Lea catchments for distribution within London.

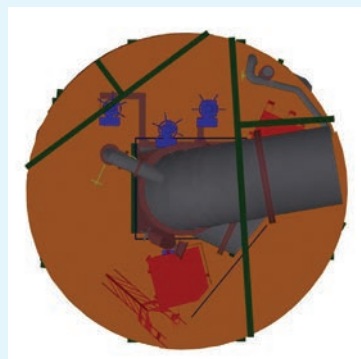
The Ring Main is at an average depth of 50m and consists mostly of 2.8m concrete wedge block tunnel. There are 22 shafts on the Ring Main, each containing a number of pumps, which draw water from the Ring and deliver it to the trunk main network. Along with the pumps, these shafts all have access stairways, ventilation systems, gas monitoring systems, bypass pipework, lighting, sump pumps, flow meters, mezzanine floors, control panels and unique High Integrity Valves.

Over the years the plant and equipment has been exposed to damp conditions and has corroded badly.

Work for the refurbishment is being released in stages and Barhale were invited to tender to refurbish the first set of shafts. This invitation came direct through Thames Water Operations rather than through the normal AMP partnership routes.

Technical details

Brixton was the first shaft awarded to Barhale. The scope of works included removal and refurbishment of the Tunnel Drainage pump,



▲ Typical Ring Main Shaft



▲ Brixton before



▲ Brixton after

changing all the pipework nuts and bolts to stainless steel, cleaning back all the corrosion on the existing pipework and recoating, designing and installing a new mezzanine floor, designing and installing a new 3" sump pump system, modifying the sample pumping system and designing and installing new access hatches to the top of the shaft.

We were subsequently awarded the refurbishment of Stoke Newington shaft. The scope of works was similar with the valves and pipework, however, all the cable trays in the shaft were heavily corroded and needed to be exchanged to stainless steel, six new access hatches needed to be created on the top landing and all the external covers exchanged. The photos show some of the equipment at both shafts, before and after the works.

Customer benefits

The refurbishment means that London's drinking water supply will not be compromised by the ageing and corrosion of the plant and equipment, which is obviously the fundamental purpose of this project.

In addition, through a very high standard of work and keeping within the program we outperformed our competitors by a clear margin on the two shafts. This has been recognised by Thames Water and we have since been awarded the next three shafts directly; Streatham, which is now completed, Park Lane, which we are currently working on and Fortescue Road that is about to start.

Tunnelling for Success!

Our tunnelling expertise is a core specialism, with recent successful delivery of projects across the country from Shawfield, Glasgow, to Redlawns, Milton Keynes through to Great Western Road, London – all tunnelling projects have their own individual challenges but our experience and professionalism has led to client recommendations and our works at Battersea being shortlisted by the New Civil Engineer for specialist project of the year.

Recent award

The recent successful award of the Elan Valley Aqueduct Scheme by Severn Trent Water (see front page) shows real confidence by a demanding client in our ability, with further major tunnelling works in the pipeline for Severn Trent.

Exciting projects

The Thames Tideway tunnel has now acquired funding and the Principal Contractors have been appointed. Barhale assisted Ferrovial/Laing O'Rourke (Flo) throughout this bid process which should lead to our on-going involvement to construct combined storm overflow (CSO) works.

We are actively working with our existing clients at Anglian Water to provide tunnelling advice and proposals, which should lead to nearly 600m of tunnelling in Spring 2016 at 600mm with a further

8 crossings at 1.2m diameter in the pipeline. We have been engaged by other water companies in providing pre-tender advice for major tunnelling schemes – again reinforcing the confidence that our clients, both new and existing, have in our ability and how they value our input.

A scheme to install additional power to Bermondsey Station for Network Rail is nearing the green light with start on site in the first quarter of 2016 to install nearly 1km of 2.1m diameter tunnel.

We should be soon returning to Battersea to install additional micro tunnelling – this time directly for the Battersea Power Station Development Company with the micro-tunnelling coupled to more extensive utility diversions, eventually works that have had our name on for the last two years at Didcot may start with nearly 1km of tunnelling using our Akkerman & Iseki machines.

Future promise

With the ever more stringent environmental demands and requirement for low disruption techniques, the prospect for more tunnelling works looks promising and we are in a great position to capitalise on this as we have the specialist personnel and equipment to do so.

However we all need to promote the use of our own resources – which include Iseki & Akkerman tunnelling machines ranging from 600mm to 1500mm and probably the best back up and technical support in the UK. Of course, the more our own equipment is utilised, the more economical it becomes.

Should anybody be aware of upcoming schemes, or site restraints that could benefit from a no-dig solution please initially contact Phil Cull, Graeme Monteith or Frank Green who will be pleased to assist.



An appraisal of 2015 for the Eastern Region

As we come to the end of 2015, we can reflect on an eventful year in the Eastern Region. James Haddon re-joined Barhale in March and has succeeded the retiring Chris Smith as Regional Director. Chris left a fantastic legacy including two new major frameworks with Anglian Water estimated to produce in excess of £40M turnover per year and a potential 15 year duration.



▲ Wilsthorpe team Customer Recognition Award

April saw the start of the new AMP6 period, which meant a lot of change for us. On the @ one Alliance framework (also known as the Integrated Main Works Capital Alliance) we were kept busy during the spring finishing off the last of the AMP5 schemes as well as getting used to the new way of integrated working for AMP6 and trying to get the new programme moving. AMP6 started slowly and we faced a constant challenge to find work to do. Thanks to the efforts of Pat Boyle and Barry Baird and some work offered by the non-infrastructure (treatment) Programme Areas, we were able to keep everyone busy and our non-productive time was minimised. It was vital to keep hold of our highly skilled workforce, which we achieved. Working in the non-infrastructure teams also exposed us to other parts of the Alliance and has helped us integrate with them, which will be important as we go forward together.

Meanwhile, we were also establishing our other, new framework. Led by James Ingamells, the Integrated Operational Services (IOS) framework required a huge amount of time and energy to get off the ground, with new people, new premises (Great Billing, near Northampton), new processes and a lot of new work types. James steadily built a team comprising a few seasoned Barhale people, several Anglian Water people, some TUPE people from the previous contractors, lots of new starters and one or two notable returnees.

Six months in, IOS feels like a well-established team and everyone is working hard together to deliver the full year's investment programme in time. In common with the Main Works Alliance, IOS is another collaborative relationship between Barhale, Anglian Water and our partner contractors. We like that way of working and

it means that we can quickly set up to deliver major programmes of work in a very short timescale. Barhale is valued by Anglian Water for our business model of self-delivery. We prefer to undertake the work with our own people and not rely on subcontractors. This has many advantages, but also means that when we set up a new framework, or extend an existing one, we need to recruit the front line people and set up all the infrastructure around them to be able to go to work safely and efficiently. This provides us with additional challenges, so the fact that we are helping to deliver a full year's programme this year from a standing start is a great achievement.

A central theme to both Alliances is one of outperformance, enabled by an absolute focus on Innovation, Collaboration and Transformation. So change and challenge are integral with what we do and how we behave within the respective Alliance teams and indeed across all the new Alliances. Bespoke incentivised commercial models in place to support those aims and share in the rewards of the out performance target met are agreed jointly. So all in all, an exciting future ahead of us all!

In terms of workload, this first year of AMP6 has been patchy. Main Works Alliance has had a slow start and much of the work we have done has been related to new developments, which tend to be less predictable and stable than traditional capital investments. In IOS, we lost time at the start of the year setting up the framework and the governance process was slow as Anglian Water needed time to build up confidence in the solutions we were promoting. Much of that is now behind us and we have a lot to do in the second half of the year. We like to be busy!

Looking ahead, 2016 promises to be a good year. The workload on both frameworks is growing and we will continue to develop and diversify our services as well as improve and refine our traditional core strengths. We look forward to expanding further into M&E through IOS and our continued involvement with the non-infrastructure programme areas of Main Works.

Finally we aim to and secure work outside of Anglian Water, allowing us to benchmark our competitiveness externally and extend our footprint in this thriving region.



Temporary works

All of our works fall into one of two categories: Temporary works or Permanent works.

What are Temporary works?

Temporary works is an 'engineered solution', consisting of any relatively short term installation used to support or protect an existing structure or the permanent works during construction. It may or may not remain in place after completion.

Why the need to manage?

Following a number of fatalities relating to falsework in the 1970s, an advisory committee led by Professor S.L. Bragg (Vice Chancellor of Brunel University) and Chair of the Advisory Committee, published a report, which contained these recommendations:

- 'full written brief' to be provided for all temporary works
- designs to be checked and approved
- permanent works designer to be consulted
- single individual to act as Temporary Works Co-ordinator (TWC) ensuring control, coordination/communication of all temporary works activities
- suppliers to provide working load test data

These recommendations formed the basis of what is now known as BS5975 – Code of Practice for Temporary works procedures and the permissible stress design of falsework.

- CDM 2015 requires that H&S is taken into account and managed throughout all stages of a project from conception, design and planning through to site work and subsequent maintenance and repair of any structures
- HSE guidance SIM02/2010/04 – this sets out the HSE's expectations regarding the management of temporary works and enforcement actions should something go wrong

Why does it go wrong and what could happen if it does?

Failures may occur due to a variety of reasons, lack of experienced personnel, poor communication, poor planning, lack of materials or inadequate information on site. When this occurs, it could lead to a serious injury or even fatality to a team member, or member of the public. Often this could lead to prosecution of individuals or the business. The business could suffer a loss of good reputation and future work and a downturn in profitability and loss of jobs.

Key Requirements for control and management of temporary works on site

- Define temporary works requirements at design stage and initiate Temporary Works Schedule/Register
- Appoint a competent TWC and Temporary Works Supervisor (TWS)
- TWC must ensure a design brief is issued for all items of temporary works and design is carried out with a design check certificate issued prior to temporary works being installed.
- TWC in conjunction with the TWS must ensure a permit to load and strike is issued prior to loading and prior to removal.
- Inspect and maintain to ensure fitness for purpose throughout the period that the temporary works are in place.
- TWC must review the temporary works whenever there is a change in conditions or the design and this must be approved by the Temporary Works Designer. Where any temporary works cannot be constructed as per the design, work must STOP until this has been reviewed and a revised solution approved..

Temporary works is there to help you and not stop works. Your Temporary Works Design Team can be contacted at design@barhale.co.uk

Collaboration for Victory!

You may remember in the last edition of Barhale News we reported on two projects from the South East – we are now hugely proud to report that both were nominated for Thames Water Health & Safety Awards.

Barhale, Optimise – Victoria Embankment: Winner of Best Practice Health & Safety Collaboration



▲ L-R: Danius Mikalauskas – Site Foreman; Rachel Whiteman – Optimise Delivery Manager; Jimmy Gill-Site Technician; Sir Bill Callaghan – Chairman of NEBOSH; John Prendergast – Contracts Manager; Andy Flowerday – Managing Director; Dennis Curran – Chairman

This project is an excellent example of health and safety collaboration on a high profile job in Central London whilst working collectively with a number of key stakeholders. Barhale, Optimise were employed by Thames Tideway Tunnel to excavate and install valve and trunk main monitoring chambers to facilitate the installation of new valves and two tapping saddles on to 30" cast iron main at Victoria Embankment, near Hungerford Bridge. This involved the designing and assembling of an above ground rider main which would be used as a contingency plan in case of any disruption to the 30" main during upcoming Thames Tideway works.

Barhale went the extra mile to ensure the safety of its workers, road and foot pedestrians through consistent collaboration with TFL, Bus Operation Management, The Metropolitan Police, Traffic Management in the City Of Westminster, Westminster Events Team, Special Events Team, Westminster 24 Hour Noise Team, London Underground, Thames Water and Thames Tideway Tunnel.

Barhale, Crossrail – Sussex Gardens: Highly Commended for Best Practice in Health & Safety Collaboration



▲ L-R: James Peden – Site Engineer; John Prendergast – Contracts Manager; Sir Bill Callaghan – Chairman of NEBOSH; Kevin Muldoon – Site Foreman

Barhale were contracted by Thames Water and Crossrail to re-lay 200-year-old Victorian Cast Iron trunk water mains in Sussex Gardens, Paddington, West London. This work was necessary for settlement mitigation as a result of the Crossrail TBM passing under the area in late 2012. Barhale were awarded this work due to their experience of working with large diameter trunk water mains. The site was highly commended for collaboration and interface with members of the public, and those living on the traffic diversionary route, noise mitigation and site auditing and monitoring joined up effort.

Well done to all involved!

EVA Project Update (continued from page 1)

Following the award of the Elan Valley Aqueduct (EVA) project, work started on site on the 19th October.



▲ Installed Shape Arrays inside the EVA

As part of the risk mitigation measures the project team had to install a monitoring system inside the EVA to monitor any movement or vibrations caused by the construction works. This system is in the form of Shape Arrays and had to be installed during a “shutdown” of the EVA.

Shutdown

Barhale was asked by Severn Trent Water (STW) to manage the shutdown as a whole, which involved managing confined space entry and the coordination of all personnel involved.

The shutdown is a five day window where the flows are turned off at Elan Works and the EVA drains down. Due to the criticality of the water supply from the EVA it cannot be shut down longer than this otherwise Birmingham starts to go dry! Although the shutdown is for five days due to the time taken to drain down and re-charge there is actually only a 72-hour window to carry out any work inside the EVA.

Whilst the shutdown was to allow the project team to install the monitoring system and carry out some 3d Laser scans, STW took the opportunity to carry out further work including crack injection sealing repairs to some of the structures, full principal inspections covering 27km, test running automated surveying



▲ Internal inspection and visit by Birmingham Evening Post



▲ Piling Rig being assembled before installing piles for launch Cofferdam

equipment and allowing various “visitors” from STW, Ofwat, Drinking Water Inspectorate, Birmingham Post, BBC and even our own Andy Flowerday. All in all this all added up to around 90 people involved in the five day programme. The shutdown was completed successfully with all parties achieving what the set out to do.

Construction

Following on from the shutdown and the installation of the monitoring system the site team were able to start the “proper” work. The



▲ TBM being manufactured in the Herrenknecht factory

first job we had to do was to level off an area of the Welsh countryside to form the first working platform for the launch/connection chamber. This involved a cut and fill operation utilising a balance 12000m³ of earth. On completion of this, we started the secant piling operations, the first of which is the launch pit for the TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine).

Murphy International mobilised to site on the 24th November, following stripping down the rig to allow access over the 9 weight restricted bridges. Secant piling has begun and good progress is being made and we are aiming to complete the piling by early January.

TBM

While work progresses on site the manufacture of the brand new purpose made £5m TBM is ongoing in Herrenknecht’s factory in Schwanau, Germany. It will be completed by the end of the year and will then be stripped down, boxed up and shipped over to Wales arriving by the end of January with tunnelling commencing shortly after following the re-build. This TBM will carry out all the tunnelling on the project and will be tunnelling constantly for approximately four years.

3 Pillar Challenge Update

2015 has seen BCS, Head Office and the Eastern Region laying down the gauntlet for their 3 Pillar Challenges. One of the main objectives set out when Dennis launched the concept was to ensure teamwork was at the forefront and both teams certainly took a hands-on approach to this...



▲ L-R: 3 McDonalds staff; Shani Fieldhouse, Administrator; Neil Dangerfield, Driver; Richard Reynolds, Fitter; Bradley Cavell, Sales Administrator; Andy Currie, Internal Sales Executive

The BCS team's Challenge was focused around the Environment Pillar, but they also wanted to add a health and wellbeing slant to their activities, which took place over four weeks. Everyone was put into teams and took part in "health swaps", with lunchtime walks in the sunshine, to organised sporting activities – with one team even arranging a boot camp at the Training Centre.

In the final week of their challenge, the focus shifted to waste and how this can be reduced. This did not just stop with waste generated in the business; they also looked at how they can bring this into their homes and local communities. One of the teams (pictured above) even braved the wind and pulled on their Barhale hi-vis jackets to go litter picking at the local McDonalds restaurant.

The Head Office team were also focused on the Environment Pillar, but during their Challenge found ways to recognise the other Pillars too. The Challenge began with a Jenga competition, a nod to the Safety Pillar, run during lunchtime in the Walsall office, where teams went through a knock-out process until the eventual winners were crowned.

Dennis' initiative was meant to encourage all of us to think about how the business philosophy may also be applied externally and to build relationships in the local community. For the Walsall team this resulted in the culmination of their Challenge; the revamp of a garden at the local children's hospice, Acorns.

Over the course of a week, an army of volunteers transformed the garden into a serene and calming space, which may be used by Acorns residents, families and staff. The brief was to apply no particular theme or focus, other than to create a tranquil and peaceful environment, centred around a tree, which was planted by the first child cared for by Acorns.

The Three Pillars philosophy was reflected throughout, extending to members of the supply chain, who supported by providing many of the materials used free of charge. These suppliers included Keyline, VP Groundforce, Hanson and BCS. Keyline were so pleased to be involved with the project that they were keen to visit the garden once complete.



▲ L-R: Carl Cadman, Volunteer Manager at Acorns; Mike Thompson, Senior Planner; Paula Gray, Senior Buyer; Jamie Pilbin, Regional Sales Manager at Keyline; Kieran Griffin, Managing Director at Keyline

Feedback on progress was regularly offered by Acorns staff, who visited the garden daily and also commented on the team's regular social media updates whilst the project

was underway. Following the completion of the work, Acorns' Volunteer Manager Carl Cadman commented that everyone was thrilled with the new garden and that people were already discovering, which areas were best to sit in at certain times of the day.



▲ Acorns before



▲ Acorns after

The Eastern region's Three Pillar event took place in September at Peterborough United's football ground. Ten team captains were nominated and selected five team members each for the competition in which the participants employed their design and build skills, commercial and safety awareness, with ingenuity and inventiveness whilst they battled against each other in a pipe-laying challenge.



▲ Action shot during team challenge

Barhale 3 Pillar

We hosted our 2015 3 Pillar Awards day on the 4th November at Bank's Stadium, the grounds for Walsall FC. The day started with a number of our key suppliers exhibiting their wares outside of the stadium. These included MGF, Carter Cabins, BMW, A Plant, SLD and Flannery.

Following the exhibition, everyone was broken up into four groups and went to four RoSPA hosted interactive workshops focusing on home safety, which has the highest rate of accidents and incidents.

Guest speakers for the day included Ian Harper, the owner of Safety Risk Management who has been involved in safety and health risk management for the last 17 years in the construction and utilities industries. Following Ian, was Tom Mullarkey MBE who started his career in the British Army, followed by being appointed general manager for the Manchester Commonwealth Games before being appointed the Chief Executive of the National Security Inspectorate. He joined RoSPA in May 2006.

This was followed by the awards ceremony. Dennis Curran announced the winners for the nine categories and photos were subsequently taken with Andy Flowerday and Noel Hanley in front of the 3 Pillar Model.

THE WINNERS FOR EACH CATEGORY WERE:

Values Award 2015



▲ Caistor St Edmund Team

"Recognising the people and teams who bring our Core Values to life and actively



▲ Tim O'Donoghue - Senior Engineer, Southern Region

demonstrate that our Values are at the very heart of our business." – the winner of this category was Caistor St Edmund Team Norwich, Norfolk

Young Person Award 2015

"To formally recognise the vital input of a young individual for their outstanding contribution in meeting the needs of the business and its clients." – the winner of this category was Tim O'Donoghue – Senior Engineer (Southern)

Safest Site Award 2015



▲ Retford Road Team

"The Safest Site Award recognises the successful demonstration of best practices in health & safety and a proven track record of dealing with subcontractors and other key stakeholders." – the winner of this category was the Retford Road Team, Catcliffe, South Yorkshire

Material Supplier of the Year Award 2015



▲ Keyline

"This award recognises a material supplier that has provided a consistent high quality and excellent service to ensure our self-delivery model stays seamlessly on target." – the winner of this category was Keyline. "The success of both our companies relies on strong relationships, having a 'can-do', 'will-do' attitude, understating values and culture; especially Health & Safety which for us is everything." Jamie Pilbin (Regional Sales Manager, Keyline)

Subcontractor of the Year Award 2015



▲ Redivac Team

"The Subcontractor of the Year award recognises a supplier who has demonstrated a common set of values and behaviours whilst developing a collaborative working relationship meeting our customers needs and expectations." –

Award Winners:

The winner of this category was Redivac. "Iseki Vacuum Systems are helpful and collaborative on site and willing to go the extra mile. They are extremely proud of ensuring that their system works well and take extra care with both the local communities and ensuring that Barhale gets the work done according to programme. They are extremely proactive and regard both the environment and the people they work with ensuring that the work is carried out and completed in a clean, tidy and safe manner." Stuart Kempster (Site Agent, Barhale Plc)

Plant Supplier of the Year Award 2015



▲ P. Flannery Plant

"To acknowledge a plant supplier who collaboratively delivers the highest standards in safety, service and performance in line with Barhale's Core Values." – The winner of this category was P. Flannery Plant Hire (Oval) Ltd. "Flannery's offer a reliable and friendly service; nothing is ever too much trouble for them. Their product knowledge and quality of machines is second to none which ensures that there are minimal breakdowns so our sites our rarely left standing. Their drivers are also excellent and highly experienced which makes our jobs easier." Jackie Danks (Senior Plant Hire Controller, Barhale Plc)

Best Innovation Award 2015

"The Innovation Award recognises the success of teams and individuals that have created and developed innovative solutions or processes that have improved the performance of the organisation or led



▲ The Retford Road Team

to significant job creation." - The winner of this category was the Retford Road Team, Catcliffe, South Yorkshire.

3 Pillar Award 2015



▲ Simon Longley from Response Group

"The Collaboration Award recognises an individual who has successfully brought organisations together in the spirit of collaboration to deliver numerous projects." – The winner of this category was Simon Longley from the Response Group.

Best Team Award 2015

"Recognising the people and teams who have delivered an outstanding contribution for Profit, Safety or our Environment." - the winner of this category was the Green Lane (Great Western Road) Team, Notting Hill, London.



▲ Green Lane (Great Western Road) Team

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS OF THE 2015 BARHALE 3 PILLAR AWARDS!

The day ended by presenting Dennis with a cake celebrating 30 years of the Barhale Values.



▲ Dennis Curran celebrating 30 years of the Barhale Values



Yorkshire's Retford Road project in pictures...

Site Agent Leon Wadsworth (pictured, with Site Engineer Holly Wickham) talks us through this project, which he captured in pictures stage by stage.

Earlier this year the Yorkshire team completed a third party sewer requisition to serve a new housing development under construction, to connect the development into the existing sewer network via 1200m of twin rising main and a 12.5m diameter pumping station.

Working on behalf of Yorkshire Water, the twin rising main (250 and 225 diameter SDR 11 PE pipe) was laid. 1100m is open cut and 100m was directionally drilled (trenchless) under a busy roundabout. The open cut section was laid in a mixture of footway and carriageway connected using a mix of butt fusion and electrofusion where required and of course avoiding services.



▲ Laying in carriageway ▲ Laying in verge ▲ Electrofusion joints and services ▲ Electrofusion jointing

In addition the team sank a 12.5m diameter shaft with water pressure relief wells installed.



▲ Pre collar pour ▲ Placing segments ▲ Placing blinding ▲ First piece lifted



▲ Half way across ▲ Lift completed ▲ Site cleared

Finally the flows were turned into the new pumping station at the end of June. The reinstated site, showing the permissive footway (the red path) and the compound is shown above.

Barhale Response Update

Following great success in bedding in the new Barhale Response venture, we are pleased to report a very busy and exciting first year in business.

Barhale Response have successfully completed the MEICA Water projects at Lower Standen, Moreton and Derby with the Holmestone/Primrose project at Affinity Water nearing completion. The Littlemore PS and Staythorpe National Grid projects are currently at detailed design stage with siteworks to commence on both of these projects early in the new year.

We have overcome a rigorous pre-qualification procedure and have been shortlisted to tender for Low Complexity and Medium Complexity 5 year MEICA frameworks at Gatwick Airport (GAL). The team have also submitted an RFI for the Anglian Water 5 year MEICA framework. This is a highly valued client which Barhale themselves have served well for over 15 years and has 2 current frameworks for delivery during AMP 6. All of our efforts will be exercised to try and secure this MEICA framework and bring benefits to Anglian Water in our field of expertise.

Aside from above we await outcome of a number of projects which have been tendered for Severn Trent Water, Thames Water, Anglian Water, Southern Water, Yorkshire Water and Scottish Water. We have the capability and appetite to deliver on all these fronts in the coming months.



▲ Anglian Water's visit to Response, Ireland

Anglian Water Visit to Response

Representatives from the Innovation Team and IOS Anglian Water, and from Barhale plc spent 2 days in Ireland on 24th & 25th November last, as guests of Response Group and the Water Systems & Services Innovation Centre (WSSIC) at Nimbus, CIT (Cork Institute of Technology). The aim of the trip was to showcase various sites and projects in Ireland that were of interest to Anglian Water. It followed over a year of engagement, including an initial visit by an Irish contingent to the UK in early 2015.

Anglian Water's delegates included Steve Kaye and Adam Brookes who together lead the Anglian Water Innovation Team and Bev Hebron and Neil Baird from IOS. They have an ambitious agenda that is being pursued through various initiatives, such as the Water Innovation Network, and the Innovation Shop Window concept. While in Ireland the delegates viewed the operation of Response's Limerick WWTP; and saw a Response operated Stahler Wheel WWTP in action in Co. Tipperary. They also viewed an innovative sludge dewatering bed that uses zero energy or chemicals to raise solids concentration from less than 1% to c. 9% before tankering away.

In Cork, the WSSIC Team led by Kevin Fitzgibbon showcased new technologies at the Nimbus labs, including a new FOG detection and management system for grease traps, called FOGMon; and the exciting Energy-cost Optimisation System (EOS) in action. Early signs from a live trial site are that EOS could save up to 35% off water pumping electricity bills; and up to 20% in commercial buildings. Through its UK Joint Venture, Barhale Response hope to trial EOS, FOGMon and the Sludge Dewatering Beds at Anglian Water sites, starting in early 2016. Meanwhile, it was agreed by all involved that the visit to Ireland was a great success, despite the weather...!



Scottish Region gets ready for growth

The Scottish Region has recently secured over £5m in contracts and is expecting to be awarded some further significant contracts in the coming months. Considerable strategic development plans are in place and a Senior Management Team has been put in place to deliver the current workload and grow the region.

Speaking of the plans newly appointed General Manager John Knowles commented 'All the team in Scotland are excited about the growth that will be coming to the division. We are working hard on developing a number of different revenue sources and are currently tendering for contracts with a variety of different clients in the Power, Rail, Municipal and Private Sector. A 3 year business plan has been formulated and presented to the Board. The delivery of this business plan is founded on the Barhale Three Pillars of Profitability, Safety and Environmental Performance.'

The Region is at final stages of the building of the Edinburgh Zero Waste contract and other successfully delivered contracts in the period have been for Scottish Power, Scottish Water and Clyde Gateway.

Our teams are live on 8 sites with a variety of work from Scottish Power, Scottish Water and Municipals. It's a very exciting and busy time for the region.

John further comments that 'An exceptionally talented and dedicated team are in place within the region. Over the coming months a CPD programme will be implemented to help

all the staff grow and develop. Consultation has begun and we aim to promote staff from within over the coming years as the workload expands.'



▲ **Edinburgh Zero Waste Project at Millerhill, Edinburgh**

Kevin cleans up with Scotland Award!

Earlier this year following discussions between the Barhale Scotland team and Nigel Sheppard from Biogen, it was decided to implement an incentive scheme on Edinburgh Zero Waste project at Millerhill to promote awareness of day to day issues which, despite successful H&S audits and inspections of the works, continued to be highlighted, letting the site down.

It was agreed that a small incentive would be introduced every month and awarded to an employee who makes a difference on site. After all the nominations were considered by Biogen and Kelda, it was decided that Kevin Smith should receive the first award.

Kevin was nominated for taking care of the 'hidden' things, as well as performing his usual duties, for example: emptying bins, cleaning the toilets, replenishing welfare supplies and informing the site management when stocks are running low. He also ensures that the water tank is topped up and that drinking water is available and keeps an eye on fuel levels, keeping the generator running for heating and lighting to the facilities. He monitors the waste skips and regularly moves materials placed into the wrong skip.

Well done Kevin!



▲ **L-R: Russell Saxton (Yorkshire Water), Kevin Smith, Nigel Sheppard (Biogen)**

Southern Bid Success

We are pleased to announce several recent tender successes in the Southern Region, along with a substantial list of promising work winning opportunities on the horizon.

Following the end of AMP 5 and the subsequent reduction in framework contracts from Thames Water, the Southern Business Unit have been busy developing relationships with new clients. Over the past 6 months the team have been working hard to both maintain the existing relationship with Thames Water in to AMP 6 and to develop an alternative tender flow with new clients – which will enable us to broaden our client base as a whole.

As a result we have won a number of recent projects including:

Project Title	Client	Location	Value	Description
Brindwood Road Flood Alleviation Scheme	Eight2O (Thames Water)	Chingford, NE London	£400k	Construction of 98m x300id and 259m x 375id sewer with 6 manhole to alleviate flooding in residential street
Tunnel Inspections	Eight2O (Thames Water)	Thames Water Region	Circa £5-6m	Periodic inspection, cleaning and repair to Thames Water tunnels
Rickmansworth Bridge MR88 Replacement	TfL London Underground	Rickmansworth West London / Hertfordshire	£900k	Replacement of ageing LUL bridge deck planned for Easter 2016, but also requires substantial foundation prep works in 2015
London Sustainable Industries Park	Greater London Authority Land and Property (GLAP)	Dagenham, East London	£1.4m	Construction of a 6m dia, 14m deep shaft and associated pumping station Installation of 220m of 150mm/225mm dia gravity sewer and 640m of 225mm dia rising main
North Wharf Gardens Sewer Diversion	Amwaj Development	Paddington, West London	£650k	Sewer diversion works involving the installation of 50m of a 1.9m diameter elliptical sewer and construction of 4 new manholes.
Trumpington Meadows	Energetics	Cambridge	£650k	Installation of 600m of new 600mm ID water main through open cut techniques
Icknield Way Flood Alleviation Scheme	Eight2O (Thames Water)	Luton, Bedfordshire	£350k	400m of 450mm/600mm diameter surface water pipe work installed via open cut techniques and construction of a new flood storage swale
Farringdon Access Shaft	Crossrail/BFK	Farringdon, London	£340k	Construction of a 5m dia, 15m deep caisson jacked shaft adjacent to a live railway line and station
Staines Reservoir works	Eight2O (Thames Water)	Staines, Middlesex	£160k	Importing and placing stone to replace that eroded from supporting the concrete lining foundation beam around the reservoir

...and we are currently progressing with some very positive discussions for future work opportunities, involving:

- A new Pumping Station and Rising Main for a large development in East London
- Installation of a Rising main for a large development in Kent
- Installation of a rising main for a large development near Gatwick airport
- Further works as part of the Battersea Power Station redevelopment
- Utility diversions for a large developer in South London
- Further opportunities in South London – including works associated with the Northern Line extension
- Numerous on-going opportunities for Thames Water via Eight2O
- Utility diversion works for Thames Tideway
- Various Thames Water related projects working for developers both inside and outside London

Through this expansion of our client base, coupled with our desire to maintain our positive relationship with Thames Water through their Eight2O venture, we are confident of securing future tender successes to further improve our order book for 2016 and beyond.



spotlight on

The Green Lane (Great Western Road) Project, London

Phil Cull spills the beans on this project, done on behalf of BFK/Crossrail.



Canada Blanch pupils ▲

In brief:

The Green Lane (Great Western Road) Project on behalf of BFK/Crossrail involved the construction of six shafts (by underpinning method) and nearly 600m of pipe jacking.

The scheme was required as the existing sewer going under Network Rail's Great Western Rail lines and London Underground would have clashed with the new Crossrail line. As a result, the existing sewer was abandoned and replaced with a new 1.2m pipe at a lower level.

As part of the works, Barhale were responsible for the detailed design of the scheme involving consultation with Thames Water, Network Rail and London Underground.

Initial works involved the location and diversion of all services at the shaft locations including Gas, Water, Electrical and Fibre Optics.

Technical features

Pre-tunnelling works involved the diversion of 15m of 6" gas, 30m of 6" water, 25m of LV electrical cables, 30m of Fisher German Fibre Optics, 15m of Virgin Media ducting and 10m of BT ducting. In addition to the six shafts constructed to facilitate the pipe jacks, the project involved various forms of tunnelling techniques such as 555m of Iseki micro-tunnelling, 20m of hand jack and 6m of timber headings.

Part of the project involved tunnelling under live Network Rail and London Underground rail tracks. A settlement assessment was carried out, together with monitoring points set up on various locations such as tracks and platforms. Shift Review meetings were carried out to discuss the tunnelling progress and any movements in settlement or expected trigger levels.

Phil said: "The entire team involved in this project can feel a sense of pride in what has been achieved and reflect in years to come on the contribution they made to the Crossrail legacy."

Customer benefits

- Reduced waste and disruption to local community using pipe jacking method as opposed to open-cut

- Hoarding erected around each compound, which minimised the impacts of noise and dust
- Programme accelerated to 24hr x 6 day working, which produced a 5 month saving on project completion
- An excellent Value Engineering proposal resulted in a 35m section of the existing sewer at the tie-in point being re-inverted and relined as opposed to the original scope, which involved the open-cut and installation of new pipework at 7m deep through a heavily congested road in the heart of Notting Hill
- The majority of the site was located in a quiet residential neighbourhood and works were conducted responsibly to minimise disturbance. One of the manholes was outside the area's bus depot which needed careful planning of traffic management and negotiation to reduce the interruption to bus operations

Community Involvement

The team opened a competition for primary school students (pictured) at Canada Blanch School in west London to name the tunnelling machine. BFK Project Director Graham Hughes said: "This is an exciting project for the local community and a chance to bring engineering to life for young students in the local area. We opened a drawing competition to year 3 and 4 students and selected a winning entry and TBM name. The students joined us for the launch and we hope seeing an engineering project in action will inspire a new generation of future tunnellers and engineers."

The sites were also located in the area of the Notting Hill Carnival and so during last year's event they had to be fully decommissioned during carnival weekend and reinstated afterwards as part of an agreement with the Carnival Organisers, Local Authorities and the Metropolitan Police.



▲ Mini TBM in shaft

Barhale on the Grid!

As many of you will be aware, we are now on the National Grid Flood Defence Framework. Dave James, Northern Region Contracts Manager, tells us more...



▲ Staythorpe Substation

Contracts within this framework are awarded using a mini tender process, which means that we still have to win work within it. The first project we have been awarded is the Staythorpe Substation Flood Defences, which falls within the geographical area of our Northern region. The Staythorpe substation is actually made up of three distinct sites, one being 400,000 volts and the other two 132,000 volts. The project will defend all three sites using one continuous flood defence wall.

The contract is "Design and Build" and we are working with Rogers Clarke and Lander Consulting Engineers as our designer. They have worked on many National Grid projects and have the necessary experience and qualifications required for this type of work.

The overall project philosophy is to construct one flood defence line to the perimeter of Staythorpe substation sites where the land is susceptible to flood risk from a 1/1000 year event. The flood defences will be a combination of either concrete wall or earth bund defences, generally set a minimum two metres off the outside of the existing perimeter fence lines. The total length will be 1.2km. There are locations where the flood defence line will be on the existing perimeter fence line; at these locations new electrified fencing will be erected as part of the works.

Within the flood defence line will be eight pumping stations. These will extract water from within the substation and discharge it out to the flooded area. We are collaborating with Barhale-Response, who are on board to carry out the Mechanical and Electrical works involved with the pumping station. This gives an ideal opportunity for the Northern team and Barhale-Response to work together from the design concept stage through to construction and commissioning.

Barhale and Barhale-Response people have commenced training and are gaining qualifications that will allow them to work within the substations where up to 400,000 Volt equipment is live and in close proximity.

We are currently completing the designs and preparing the safety documentation that will be required to work on a National Grid substation site.

Project Timeline:

Contract Award December 2014

Complete Design Stage Winter 2015

Start on Site Spring 2016

Contract Completion Summer 2016

BCS Group...

New Website Coming Soon – “January 2015”



The management team of BCS Group are pleased to announce the launch of our new website,

which is due to go live in January 2015. The new site has been designed to provide visitors to our site with the ultimate user friendly experience. Improved navigation and functionality will allow existing and potential new customers to access detailed product information, videos and the option to share information across all major social networking sites. Created with the

user experience firmly in mind, the website has also been designed using the latest technology allowing compatibility with the latest browsers and mobile devices.

Stage one of our website launch will help our customers understand and the BCS Group Brand and show our complete range of products and services on offer from all aspects of our business. It demonstrates that our products and services are suitable for a wide range of market sectors including Construction, Utilities, Merchants & Hire, Local Authorities, Civils & Highways, House Building, Public Services and Industrial. Other key features of the new website include a News section where visitors can keep up-to-date with

the latest announcements, new products, special offers and expert advice from our business and supply chain.

Stage two of our website will introduce an e-commerce function enabling our customers to efficiently order BCS Group products from our whole range using the award winning Magneto platform and this element is expected to be launched in 2016.

Please look out for the release of the new website in January 2016 and visit the new website on it launch (www.bcsgroup.co.uk). We value your feedback so please forward any comments to either John Lawson or Dean Webb at BCS Group.

Welcome...

A huge welcome to Barhale to the following team members who have joined in the last 6 months or who have transitioned from weekly to monthly:

Barhale Reponse	
Paul Harris	MEICA Project Manager
Jacqueline Malcolm	Senior Administrator
BCS Group	
Grant Holden	Trainee fabricator/welder
David Hunt	Draughtsman/Estimator
Jennifer Rushton	Systems Manager
Eastern Region	
Ernest Assiamah	Design Engineer
Mark Badcock	General Foreman
Alexander Bailey	Admin Assistant
Douglas Barnard-Harris	Site Agent
Daniel Bennett	Skilled Operative
Robert Bryant	General Foreman
Brian Charlton	General Foreman
Paul Darrington	Project Engineer
Ryan Davy	Apprentice Site Engineer
Harriet Dodsworth	Project Co-ordinator
Kieran Donnelly	Foreman
Sarah Donoghue	Admin Assistant
James Fisher	Production Improvement Technician
Brendan Foley	General Foreman
Samuel Gent	Apprentice Electrician
Helen Glancy	Category Buyer
Micheal Hall	General Foreman
John Kelly	General Foreman
Ian Lewis	Project Engineer
Andrew Moreby	Project Manager
Ewen Munowenyu	Site Agent
Trevor Newman	Foreman
Gary Parsons	Project Engineer
Ashley Redhead	Managing Quantity Surveyor
Martyn Rout	Carpenter
Nicholas Rowell	Site Agent
Ashley Swash	Carpenter's Mate

Jedrzey Sznajder	Graduate Engineer
Jacqueline Tanner	Personal Assistant
Simon Thornhill	Project Manager
Joseph Wild	Trainee Engineer
Kaye Wilkins	Assistant Programme Manager
Malcolm Williams	Site Manager
Eastern Region	
Samantha Davis	Business Development Director
Phil Flynn	Estimating Director
Amarpreet Gill	Administrator
Paul Horrocks	Financial Controller
Domenico Masella	Caretaker
Jane Mead	Receptionist
Sharanjeet Sanghera	Insurance Officer
Shannen Swinton	Buying Administrator
Northern	
Jason Dawes	Planner
Daniel Doyle	Graduate Site Engineer
Scotland	
Liam Boyle	General Foreman
Enda Brett	Site Engineer
Roderick Dow	Estimator
George Gilmour	General Foreman
Michal Hermanowicz	Site Engineer
Marc Wallace	Assistant Quantity Surveyor
Craig Wannan	Site Manager
George Wilson	Site Manager
Southern	
Stephen Collett	Site Supervisor
Radu Dreliciu	Site Agent
Andrew Hills	Project Manager
David Lally	Foreman
Geoff Maul	Regional Commercial Manager
Yorkshire	
Stuart Atkinson	Senior Planner

Dark Horses

We spoke to two more of our people who have interesting pastimes outside work...



▲ Dave Matthews

Dave Matthews, BCS Safety/Lifting Technician, has been playing pool since he was 15 years old. He told us that he started playing the game at his local youth club and found he really enjoyed it. Whilst there, he was asked to go for trials for the West Midlands County Youth Team. He then progressed to senior level where he played for the next two years.

Since then Dave has been playing for his local pub team, but three months ago there was a national competition run by the Hungry Horse pub chain, and he couldn't resist entering. He won the first pub round and then the regional round, moving on to the national finals which were held in Birmingham.

Dave said: "To my amazement I managed to win that one also. I received £1600 in prize money and I'm going to use it towards a holiday with my family. I'm also looking forward to defending my national title next year."

Regional Director Dave Shaw has in recent years become a keen cyclist, following a request from his partner Cathy in October 2011, to take

part in a charity event. They decided on a charity cycle ride from London to Paris, raising money for WaterAid. Dave told us that at the time he was near 19 stones in weight and hadn't taken part in any sport for too many years to remember! However, undeterred, two new bikes were purchased and training commenced for the ride, which was to take place in August 2012. This wasn't as easy as Dave thought and initially he struggled to ride a rather hilly 15 miles.

Now though, nearly four years on and four stones lighter, Dave has achieved a few personal goals and attempts to ride every weekend and at least once during the week. He has also been known to ride into the Walsall office. This year he rode the Paris - Roubaix route the day before the professional race, which is one of the most iconic races in the spring professional calendar, affectionately known as the "hell of the North" and has 52km of cobbles spread over 27 sections with the longest being 1.8km.

In July he rode the route once again in aid of Cyclists Fighting Cancer and reaching Paris the day before the Tour de France. Later in the year Dave is travelling to Mallorca to ride with Stephen Roche on a 4-day 500km ride named the Tour of the Light Houses. In Autumn/Winter he hopes to ride in the West Midlands Cyclocross League.

Dave said: "By taking up the challenge to do something for charity I will have visited Paris twice and got there both times under my own steam and cycled around different parts of the UK in cyclosporives of distances up to 100 miles. I have met and received the support of a lot of people and every Saturday can be seen cycling with a group of like-minded people on a 30 mile social ride before returning to the cafe for coffee and cake!!

"When asked how many bikes do you need, cyclists always say one more than you actually have - I have five bikes, all individual in their own way but all Italian! Luckily I also have an understanding partner who enjoys cycling as much as I do."



▲ Dave Shaw

Dear Barhale...

Here is the latest selection of letters received from around the regions...

Martin Murray wrote in regarding Eastern region's Chad Lewis and Sam Venmore, now known as the "Heroes of the A14":

"I was travelling on the A14 through the Cambridge area, driving a Scania flatbed 10 tonne truck carrying pallets. I had loaded up at Ipswich but when I reached the Bedford stretch I was shocked to see the load had shifted, so I slowed down and got onto the chevrons in the middle of the road. There was traffic coming from both sides and was wondering how I would straighten the load on my own...Then WOW! A driver and his mate offered to help. They boarded the truck and sorted the load out for me. They are DEFINITELY MY HEROES OF THE A14, thanks guys, I owe you a drink."

Jim Bell of Malton Road, Pickering, wrote in about Yorkshire region's project in his street:

"I am one of many residents affected by the work being undertaken by your staff [whom] I want to commend. They work fastidiously and with great attention to detail. They are cheerful, charming and very helpful. All have a great work ethic and are a great credit to your organisation. Even in the rain! It must be unusual to get this sort of feedback, but I was exchanging views with my wife and she said: 'Tell them then!' There you go. A deserving pat on the back."

Sheila Ferrari of the Sheila Ferrari Dyslexia Centre wrote to our gang at the High Beech project:

"I must draw your attention to the courteous and friendly way in which Mark and Terry conducted themselves. They were helpful, courteous and kind to parents and children alike, many parents mentioned this to me! I wish more people who come to do work near my school and centre acted as these two gentlemen do."

Ann Rogers wrote in to praise the work of the Yorkshire team at Westerton Road:

"I must commend the Barhale crew working on behalf of Yorkshire Water on Westerton Road. They have had to dig up our gardens to install new sewage pipes which was very intrusive, however the team has been exemplary in their work ethic and have informed we residents at every stage. We requested that we had egress from our cul de sac before 9am one day and not only did the team rearrange their workload to allow us to get out easily but one even came and swept the pathway through our drive, which was at this stage dug up, to enable us to leave without getting covered in mud. This team need to be commended for the way they undertake their work and the respect and consideration they have shown to us."

Notices

Congratulations to...

Francis McCauley, Scotland HSE Advisor, and wife Gemma, who married on 13 June



Nicole Prout (nee Badcock), and husband Luke, who tied the knot on 27 June



Rachael Fletcher-Gabriel (nee Fletcher), and partner Sophie, who married on 16 May



Joe Fisher, Yorkshire Sub Agent, and wife Jodie, who married on the 1st August at Rogerthorpe Manor



David Newsome, Eastern Training and Skills Manager and his wife Amanda who gave birth to Isla Rose Newsome on the 27th October 2015 weighing 8lbs 3oz.



Nick Jarvis, Eastern Project Manager, who has now achieved Chartered Construction Manager status with the CIOB

all in a day's work...



Mike Mackintosh

IT Manager

What do you like to do to unwind?

I love to watch sport, especially cricket, snooker and Formula 1. I enjoy walking in the countryside and am planning to do some rambling in the Alps near Zermatt. I also enjoy family history and have traced one line of ancestors back to the 1760s.

What is your favourite gadget?

I love all gadgets and have been nicknamed Inspector Gadget by my colleagues!

What CD do you have playing in your car?

I have a wide taste in music and listen to most genres depending on my mood. I am also trying to learn German and Spanish with audio CDs.

What is your greatest extravagance?

I collect wristwatches and have recently purchased a Tag Heuer.

What is the worst job you have ever done?

I worked part-time in a book store during school vacations, constantly trying to keep busy, even when there were no customers!

Name one person you'd like to have dinner with and why?

Desmond Tutu – a truly remarkable man who was appointed chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee after the election of the ANC in South Africa. Both he and Nelson Mandela were instrumental in facilitating a peaceful transition to a democratic Government.

Where do you hail from?

I was born in Durban, South Africa and moved to the UK in March 2000.

Give us a brief history of your career

I was employed by the Durban Municipality in 1976 as a Learner Civil Engineering Technician and was sent to the Regional College on a sandwich course and awarded a Higher National Diploma in Civil Engineering in 1980. I worked in various departments including Road Design, Traffic Engineering, Cadastral Survey and eventually Road Construction.

Initially my job was setting out survey and then I was appointed as Site Agent and managed a number of fairly large jobs, including the building of a reinforced retaining wall some 1.5km long and 4m at the highest point. I was then appointed Depot Manager, managing some 20 road maintenance gangs. I was responsible for all patching, verge maintenance and road reinstatements for an area of Durban with approximately 900km of roadway.

In 1991, I was tasked with taking over the Road Rehabilitation section and facilitated the development of the Pavement Management System for Durban. This was my first introduction to computers and I built a computer network which grew from a single server and a couple of computers to a fairly large network running an Information System for road maintenance and rehabilitation. In 1996, I went back to college part time for two years and upgraded my HND to a Bachelors' Degree in Civil Engineering.

In 2000, I decided to emigrate and focus my career on IT, so went back to study a Microsoft qualification. In July 2000, I was employed as an IT Engineer by Barhale. This was a fantastic opportunity, as it enabled me to keep in touch with civil engineering whilst carrying out an IT role. In 2002, Barhale appointed me as Regional Supervisor for the South and in 2006, I was appointed as IT Manager.

What do you do on a daily basis?

My role is primarily to manage the IT team and to guide the strategic direction of IT within Barhale. This is to ensure the main infrastructure is designed to be robust and resilient and the team can react appropriately to unplanned emergencies. Planning upgrades, liaising with supply partners and ensuring compliance to legislation are ongoing activities. I also have to spend time evaluating latest trends in IT and keeping a careful eye on the threat landscape. I still maintain a hands-on element with the physical network and am back at university, studying part-time for an MSc in Cyber Security.

Barhale moves to the Cloud

Our IT department is embarking on a project to move email and file storage across to the Microsoft Office 365 Cloud platform.

This three year venture, focusing on email first, will create an IT infrastructure able to meet the performance and collaboration requirements of AMP6 and beyond. It is also projected to save Barhale over £100k, primarily through reductions in Microsoft licencing costs.

Our current IT infrastructure has performed well over the past five years achieving an uptime of over 99.8% (that's less than six hours of downtime per year!). Despite this the demands of an always-on highly collaborative system cannot be met by the current systems.

There is much confusion about the term 'Cloud' as it means different things to different people. Basically by moving our email to the 'Cloud' we are simply renting a complete service i.e. email, from Microsoft, rather than purchasing and maintaining the individual components (servers, software, network kit, somewhere to store it all). The savings simply come from economies of scale – it is much cheaper per user because Microsoft provide this for millions of customers. It is also a far from new technology, anyone who has been using a 'Hotmail' or 'Yahoo' email account has been using the Cloud for years but it has taken a while for the technology to move into the corporate sector.

Several vendors have been investigated but the decision has been made to utilise Office 365 and Citrix. These platforms are already in use by many of our key customers and partners so will give all the benefits of a cloud platform whilst minimising any compatibility issues. The benefits of the cloud platform are as limitless as our imagination to utilise its offering but here are a few of the headlines:

- Barhale systems available anytime from anywhere on any device - you can edit and view Word, Excel, and PowerPoint documents and access Barhale corporate systems on PCs, tablets and phones
- Huge 50GB mailbox size limit - no more emails telling you that you have reached your limit!
- Unlimited file storage and file sharing - collaborate with colleagues, partners, and customers on documents that are always up to date and accessible from almost anywhere
- Conferencing - connect immediately or set up and host online meetings with multi-party HD video conferencing, real-time note taking, and screen sharing.

There will be significant changes to the IT infrastructure and this may involve adopting new ways of working but these will be managed to ensure the impact on your day to day work will be kept to a minimum.

We are often asked how the IT budget is spent. Below/left/right is a chart showing where funds are currently allocated. Over the past few years as part of the trend of moving to 'Cloud based' services the hardware portion of the IT spend is decreasing, however the cost of data communications is inevitably increasing to meet the growing need to always be online and download large items quickly.