

Welcome to our Newsletter

In this edition we celebrate the move to our new offices in Guildford which will provide a new improved working environment for our existing Guildford and Camberley staff.

Education remains a major part of our business and we look forward to attending, for the sixth year running, the Annual Conference in May of the Independent Schools' Bursars' Association (ISBA). Once again we are delighted to be one of the sponsors at the conference; with more than thirty independent school clients, it is proper that we should be supporting the event. Not surprisingly, this newsletter has an educational flavour to it.

CMPB Win Project Management Role at Tonbridge School

We are delighted to have been appointed by Tonbridge School to act as their Project Manager for their new sports centre project. Design consultants have yet to be appointed but it is hoped that following planning, a start on site might be possible by the end of 2006.

The proposed sports centre will include an 8-court (double) sports hall, a new swimming pool with wet side male and female changing facilities, a large entertaining area, dry changing facilities, an athletics control office, a first-aid room, a 30 workstation fitness suite, a multi-use studio, a climbing room/wall, a classroom and squash courts.

Tonbridge School was founded in 1553 and is one of the UK's premier league independent boys' schools. The school has long been associated with sporting excellence and has superb outdoor facilities. Now Tonbridge intends to extend the range of sporting opportunities it offers by building a sports centre that matches the excellence of its playing fields and the stature of its buildings. We look forward to working with Tonbridge on this exciting venture!



Tonbridge School Crest

CM Parker Browne Causing BBC Headlines in Liverpool

One of Liverpool's most distinctive pieces of art is being forced to move home – and it's all down to CM Parker Browne! Those who know about the exciting pace of regeneration taking place in the city will know that in preparation for Liverpool's 2008 European City of Culture status, a series of large pieces of public art with some reference to the Beatles and their song lyrics have been placed around the city.



The Superlambanana which CMPB have had moved off their development site.

The seven tonne Superlambanana, designed by Japanese artist, Taro Chiezo has been on display on our client's land for several years and has become a city landmark, identified on tourist maps. But following our appointment in

In recent weeks, we have been delighted to win new appointments at Tonbridge School (to project manage their new sports centre), at Bolton School (to advise them on new maintenance software) and at the Blue Coat School, Oldham (three phases of development work). This newsletter has details of all these appointments and more. We hope you enjoy reading about our work!

New Guildford Office

After 46 years of having been at our 241, High Street office in Guildford, we have moved due to the need for extra space! The move took place over the week-end of 16th/ 17th April, 2005; whilst the London Marathon was taking place, we had a marathon of a different kind to get through!

The partners have purchased a brand new office building off Woodbridge Road (near Guildford Cricket Ground) and staff from our Guildford and Camberley offices will now be based from here. The air-conditioned offices will provide an improved working environment and the open-plan nature will promote more teamwork. The facilities include 30 workstations, meeting rooms, reception, kitchenettes, washrooms and even showering facilities for those who intend to run or cycle to and from work.

Our Camberley office was acquired as part of the merger with Close Morton in 2000 and its nearness to Guildford has led to the decision to close the office and relocate our staff to the bigger and brand new Guildford office.

Details and a map are on our website at www.cmpb.co.uk

We say farewell to the old office (enticingly placed above Pizza Express).....

And hello to our new Guildford home.

Our new Guildford address is:
CM Parker Browne
8/9 Faraday Road
Guildford
Surrey GU1 1EB



CM Parker Browne's new Guildford office

September, 2004, the Superlambanana's grazing days were numbered and the BBC news website reported the event on 13th April, 2005. We have needed to have the piece of art moved in order to undertake demolition works, build a two storey basement and car park and divert sewer mains and other services. Our Liverpool office project managers have arranged with the City Council to have it repositioned outside the John Moores University Learning Resources Centre.

CMPB are Quantity Surveyors, Project Managers and Planning Supervisors for a major multi million pound mixed residential and retail development not far from the Paradise Street development. We are pleased to be working with Downs Variava Architects, Gifford & Partners (Services) and Mouchel Parkman (Structural Engineers).

Do Schools Get Good Value for Money from Their Works Department?

This is a question which has often been asked of us by Bursars at the ISBA annual conferences – and for some schools, the question has led to us conducting a discrete audit of their works department concluding with presentations of findings to the Governors.

A quick and easy – but not terribly analytical – answer can be reached by comparing school workforce hourly rates with current commercial hourly rates. Determine what the 'hourly rates' are for your school's works staff by taking the basic gross salaries of each member of staff and then adding Employer's National Insurance contribution, sundry items (eg allowances) and Superannuation. This figure is then divided by 1920 working hours in the year (48 weeks x 5 days x 8 hours a day) to arrive at the hourly rate.

From our experience, typical hourly rates for school staff appear below, together with the comparative typical current commercial rates to the right hand side. The percentage figure in the far right hand column expresses how much more value for money typical school directly employed trades personnel are – simply in terms of employment cost:

A Typical School's Hourly Rates	Commercial Rate	Better Value
Foreman	£16.33 / hr.	£28.00 / hr. (71%)
Heating Engineer	£14.48 / hr	£20.90 / hr (44%)
Boilerman	£12.02 / hr	£19.00 / hr (58%)
Painter	£14.48 / hr.	£21.10 /hr (46%)
Labourer	£12.63 / hr	£16.20 / hr (28%)
Electrician	£14.71/ hr.	£23.20 / hr. (58%)
Carpenter	£ 14.71/ hr.	£22.40 / hr. (52%)
Plumber	£ 14.48/ hr.	£26.10 / hr. (80%)

Clearly, and simply in terms of the costs of employment per hour, a typical school is likely to achieve very good value for money. It would be surprising if this were not the case because contractors' rates are always subject to market forces – which currently reflect a busy industry where tradesmen are in demand. Contractors also have to factor in levy charges and additional payments from The Construction Apprenticeship Scheme (CAS) and Trade Union Working Rule Agreement. Schools are unlikely to encounter such levies.

Whilst school works department labour costs are often at least 28% less expensive their output or productivity is often a lot less than that of commercial contractors and it is in the area of productivity where many schools lose out. In a recent study of one of our client schools we compared the time taken to undertake the re-painting of the classroom block windows over a summer holiday period - with the period of time it would have taken by employing a commercial contractor – applying standard industry output data. We found that although the school painter was 46% cheaper than the commercial hourly rate and the school labourer was correspondingly 28% cheaper, the cost to the school of having used the in-house Works team was 35% more!

Cheaper labour was actually costing a school more to undertake specific projects than it would cost to have employed a local painting company to have the same resources undertake the work (even after their overheads, profit and VAT). This speaks badly of the productivity of school works staff.

Of course there are lots that can be done to improve productivity in a schools works department; close supervision and man management by a competent Clerk of Works are key.

For more information on this subject, please talk to Robert Ebdon.

Robert Ebdon is Partner in Charge of Project Management. He is also a Governor of Hurstpierpoint College, Sussex where he is Chairman of the College Estates Committee.

Developing Maintenance Database Software for Bolton School

Our Liverpool office is discussing with Bolton School's Clerk and Treasurer, Simon Marsden, how we might develop a Maintenance Database software specifically for Bolton School- but that might be of value to any school wanting to keep an up-to-date inventory database of facilities for maintenance planning, health and safety records and for the management of repair works.

Our head of CMPB Liverpool office, Stan Inskip, has experience in maintenance planning of PFI schools projects which is proving invaluable, married together with our building surveyors' proven track record in planned maintenance work. We are working with our IT consultant, Steve Mersereau and the plan is to have Phase 1 of an implementation programme up and running at Bolton School for the start of the next academic year in September 2005.

We are able to develop a school bespoke system which gives a school exactly what it needs, giving far greater value for money than the readily available 'off the shelf' commercial pieces of software. So many of these packages are far more powerful (and confusing) than schools require and they are expensive!

Any school who might be interested in taking part in the implementation of this software should speak to Robert Ebdon or Stan Inskip at CMPB or to Simon Marsden, Clerk and Treasurer to Bolton School.

Liverpool Office Launched

What better way to launch a new office in Liverpool than to have the Beatles drop in and play us through the evening! The recreated Cavern at 'The Beatles Experience' in Liverpool's Albert Docks played host to our celebrations on 17th December, 2004. 100 guests enjoyed a trip down 1960's memory lane and toasted our new Liverpool office to the beat of an outstanding imitation group.

The office is headed up by Stan Inskip who joined us from Kajima where he was Operations Director for the North East of England. Stan brings with him over 20 years of experience in construction project management – most recently he has been involved in constructing PFI projects. He leads our Liverpool team including Shirley Hynes (Senior Project Manager), Graham Howell (Senior Quantity Surveyor), Roy Blamey (Associate & Head of Planning Supervision) and Claire Laroc (secretary). Rob Buckley and Robert Ebdon are the Partners responsible for Liverpool – for Quantity Surveying and Project Management



A Beatles Tribute Band playing at the recreated Cavern Club.

New Facilities for Science and Catering at Caterham School



Contractors Buxtons have, in the past month, been appointed to commence the construction of a new £5.5 million Science Laboratory building and new dining and catering facilities. The building has been designed by Hove architects, The Miller Bourne Partnership and construction work will commence on site at about the same time that the ISBA conference is commencing in May, 2005. The new facilities are due to open to the students in September, 2006. CMPB are Project Managers, Quantity Surveyors and Planning Supervisors to Caterham School.



Caterham School Science and Dining Building.
Courtesy of The Miller Bourne Partnership - Architects.

New Staff



In the past six months, we have welcomed the following new staff:-

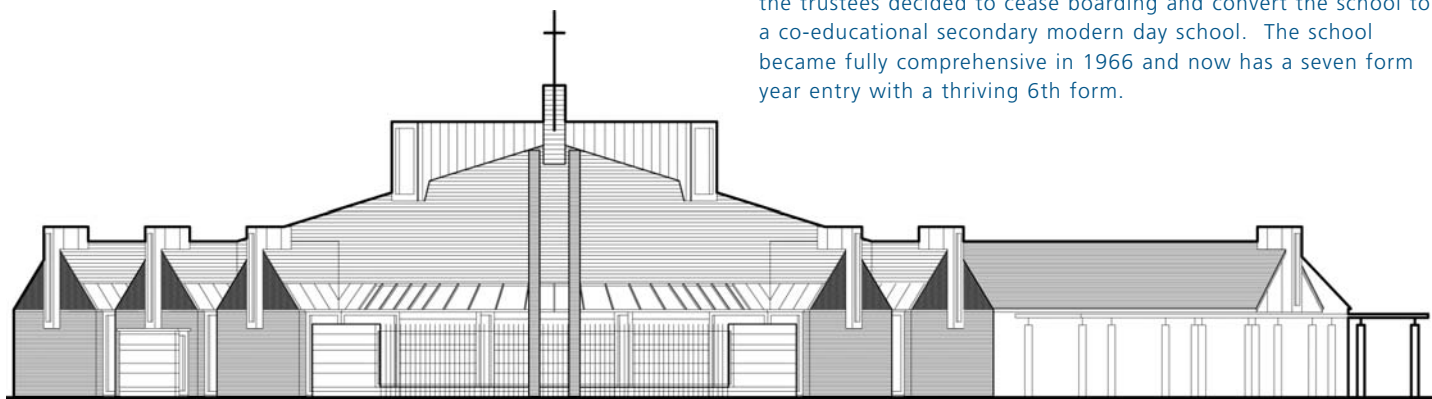
- Ron Brooker - Senior Quantity Surveyor working on City Academies and based in Guildford.
- Mike Chapman - Senior Quantity Surveyor working on Education Projects and based in Guildford.
- Bill Truman - Senior Quantity Surveyor based in Liverpool.

CMPB Called to give Blue Print Costs to The Blue Coat School



CM Parker Browne's Liverpool office have been asked by The Blue Coat School, Oldham to provide them with some initial cost advice for capital development plans at the school, possibly spread over three phases to provide improved teaching accommodation, covered play areas, additional classrooms, new car parking facilities and a new technology building. We hope to be able to submit a bid with the school to the DfES by June.

The Blue Coat school was established in 1825 from the endowment of Thomas Henshaw. The school buildings were commenced in 1829 but were not complete until 1834. In 1952 the trustees decided to cease boarding and convert the school to a co-educational secondary modern day school. The school became fully comprehensive in 1966 and now has a seven form year entry with a thriving 6th form.



Praying for Planning at St Dunstan's Church, Woking



CMPB was appointed as Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor and Planning Supervisor to The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton at the start of 2004 in connection with plans for a new catholic church to be built for the parish of St Dunstan, Woking.

We have been working alongside the respected ecclesiastical architects, Rooney & McConville from Belfast, in close co-operation with the planning officers at Woking Borough Council and the St Dunstan's Steering Committee.

A planning application was submitted in March, 2005 and we are looking forward to a successful determination in the summer.

The church design is sympathetic to the arts and craft nature of some of the local dwellings which the borough's urban design officer was keen to mirror. A great deal of thought and liturgical design has gone into the planning of the inside space of the church and CM Parker Browne have been chairing this briefing and planning process.

Academies Update

The United Learning Trust (ULT) has been created to manage a number of Academies spread across the country. ULT is a subsidiary charity of the not-for-profit charity, the United Church Schools Trust (UCST) and shares with it the objective of managing schools which offer students a high quality education based on Christian principles of service and tolerance.

CM Parker Browne have provided construction consultancy services to UCST for the last 25 years and have been delighted to become involved in assisting ULT with their pioneering

Academy schools programme at the schools' design and construction stages.

ULT is currently involved with nine Academies – Manchester, Lambeth, Northampton, Paddington, Salford, Walthamstow, Barnsley and two at Sheffield. Working together as a group has significant benefits for teachers, pupils and parents. This feature of the Academies within ULT, together with the long experience in high quality education brought by UCST, makes this sponsorship unique in this country.



Lambeth Academy
Printed by kind permission of Howarth Litchfield Partnership



Manchester Academy
Printed by kind permission of Aedas Architects Limited



Northampton Academy
Printed by kind permission of Feilden Clegg Bradley LLP

Lambeth Academy

In September, 2004 Her Majesty The Queen opened Lambeth Academy. The Academy specializes in Languages, Business and Enterprise. The buildings are designed by Howard Litchfield Partnership and CMPB provided Quantity Surveying and Project Management services.

Manchester Moss Side Academy

CMPB provided Quantity Surveying Services for this Academy which opened in January 2005, providing a specialism in Business and Enterprise. Aedas AHR were the Architects.

Northampton Academy

CMPB are currently acting as Project Managers and Quantity Surveyors for this Academy which is due to open in January, 2006. The Academy will specialize in Sport with Business and Enterprise. Feilden Clegg Bradley are the Architects.

In addition to the Academies illustrated, CMPB are working on the following ULT Academies:

Paddington: where the specialism will be Media & The Performing Arts, with Business and Enterprise. The Academy is being designed by Feilden Clegg Bradley and is due to open in January 2007.

Salford: where we are working with Aedas AHR to have the new building open in September 2006

Barnsley: where the Academy will open in September 2007

Sheffield: Walthef and Myrtle Springs – both due to open in September 2007.

Walthamstow Academy – due to open in September 2007

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