

# IMPACT

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# WELCOME TO THE NEW EDITION OF IMPACT



**Steven MacKinder**  
Head of Community Impact

Welcome to the new edition of IMPACT – our very own quarterly e-zine that celebrates the people and communities we support and work with.

Once again, we've packed this edition with a selection of heart-warming stories from across GRAHAM, including a couple of staff interviews with the people behind the projects (shout-out to Vitalii Slobodian and Suzanne Stevenson in our Building North region and Gary Redpath in Civils for taking part).

Special congratulations also go out to the project team behind the Hounds Hill Shopping Centre Extension, who picked up an award at the Procure Partnerships Framework Social Value Awards last month; another testament to the strong collaborative relationships we nurture with community partners to deliver lasting impact.

Well done to all and happy reading folks,

*Steven MacKinder*

Head of Community Impact



**Debbie Rutherford**  
Social Impact Manager  
Building North



**Jamie Smyth**  
CSR Manager  
Facilities Management



**Louise Seddon**  
Social Impact Manager  
Building South



**Ibbie Omideyi**  
Social Impact Manager  
Building South



**Attracta Matthews**  
Social Impact Manager  
Civils



**Stephen Hughes**  
Social Impact Manager  
Civils



**Nicola Laight**  
Social Value  
Impact Reporting Manager



**Suzanne Stevenson**  
Social Impact Advisor  
Building North



**Gary Redpath**  
Social Impact Business Partner  
Civils



**Sandra Saxton**  
Social Impact Business Partner  
Civils



**Patsy Evans**  
Social Impact Business Partner  
Building South / Interior Fit-out

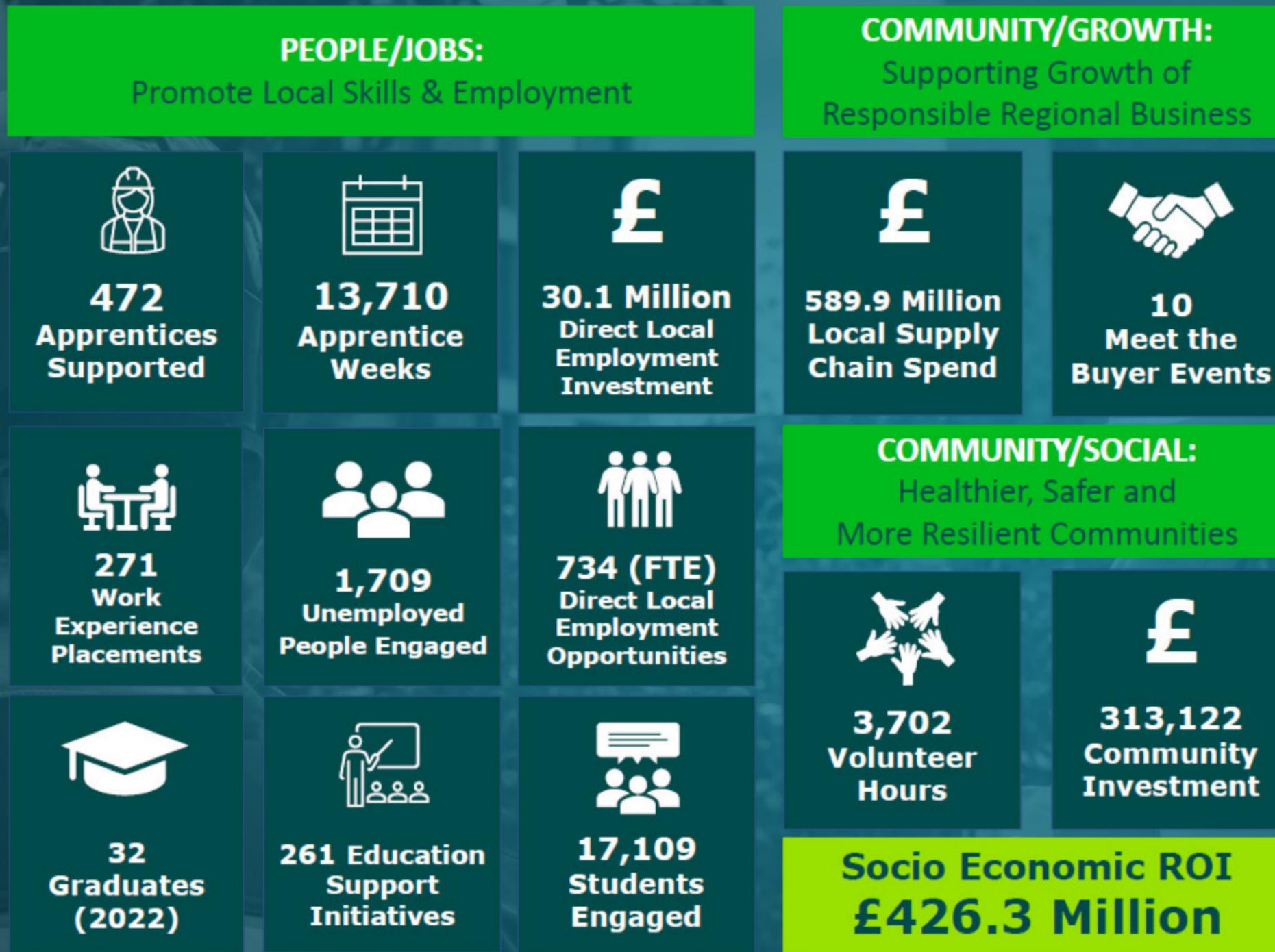


**Ashleigh YebuaBuadi**  
Social Impact Assistant  
Building South

# Meet the Team behind the stories

Meet the Team Behind the Stories

# Social Impact Reporting Q2 2023



Figures indicative of live projects and projects completed within the last 12 months

# Group



## Tree Planting in Manchester is a Growing Success

Fifteen volunteers from our Manchester office made a valuable contribution to the environment by planting circa 150 trees near Pear Mill Industrial Estate in Stockport, helping to improve the local habitat and combat climate change.

In glorious sunshine, the volunteers spent five hours clearing shrubs and weeds before planting new indigenous trees.

It was a brilliant day for doing some great work for the environment, as well as spending quality time with colleagues.

**A massive thank you to everyone who gave their time and made a valuable contribution.**

# Civils

APRIL 2023



## Civils Support Job-seekers to Overcome Barriers in Employment

Civils sites across NI have been extremely active in building strong relationships with local employment groups to help improve prospects for job-seekers facing barriers to employment.

A host of bespoke talks, workshops, employability skills programmes and information sessions have already taken place, and new learning opportunities continue to be developed with specialist support organisations including Impact Training NI, Fostering Network NI, Include Youth, Stepping Stones NI and Now Group.



## One Step Closer to Rory's Wish to Walk

In April, the Manchester office and Discovery Quay teams took part in a Charity Breakfast to raise much needed funds for 'Rory's Wish to Walk'.

Rory is a cerebral palsy warrior who underwent major pelvic reconstruction and double hip surgeries in Boston Children's Hospital, in the hope that one day he'll be able to walk.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone for their contribution to the event and to those who participated and donated so generously.

A total of £236.17 was raised and has been donated to Rory's GoFundMe page.



## Some People Say it with Flowers

The delivery of stone was made to 'Dandelion Time' in Maidstone, a charity that works with disadvantaged children and families experiencing serious behavioural and emotional difficulties.

The farm setting at Dandelion Time provides the opportunity for families to experiment, play and connect within its fields, gardens, and woodland.

With therapies including everything from calming crafts to gardening and animal care, families are able to share new experiences and create memories.

Working with National Highways and our supplier Aggregate Industries, we delivered more than 10 tonnes of stone aggregate to help with the base of new woodland toilets and improved pathways to this nature-based charity.



We're proud to be supporting the invaluable work of Dandelion Time and are pleased to have partnered with Aggregate Industries to provide 10 tonnes of stone aggregate to assist with the construction of new woodland toilets, enabling the charity to accommodate more families for therapeutic sessions.

We hope this contribution will further enhance the incredible work of Dandelion Time and help make a positive impact on the lives of those in our local community."

- **Stevie Collins**, GRAHAM Project Manager

# SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT

## Gary Redpath

**Gary Redpath is a Social Impact Business Partner within our Civil Engineering division and has been at GRAHAM for two years. His latest project, the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside (CWRR), is one that's close to his heart. We spoke to Gary to find out more about his role and why he decided to get involved with social impact.**



### What made you want to get involved in social impact?

I grew up in Clydebank - that's where we are currently building the bridge. I applied straight away when I saw an opportunity to work for GRAHAM and deliver the social values commitments.

In my previous role with an employability service, it was clear to see how social value was becoming increasingly popular within construction, so it was a win-win for me.

It was also a great chance to work on

such an iconic project in the town I grew up in. It's really rewarding going out to schools and communities to teach people about the different roles and how there is a place for everyone in construction.

### Why are you so passionate about social impact?

In my previous role, I was used to working with contractors to support their social value deliverables. So, when the job came up in social impact, it was the perfect fit for me. It's a great feeling to know the local community is benefiting from us being there and delivering the project.

The community groups that we support benefit massively. It's not just writing a cheque to someone or

ticking a box, we build relationships that last, and help them long after our project or event is over.

Also, the amount of good people you meet is just inspiring.

### What have been the highlights of your career to date?

I think the highlight for me has to be the CWRR project. As I say, I'm born and bred in Clydebank and it's needed attention for a long time, so to be part of that is amazing.

Through this project we've been able to support so many different groups and individuals, especially going to different schools and providing STEM talks. You do get a real sense that your helping the area you grew up.

### What projects have you been working on in the last 12 months?

Asides from CWRR, I've been part of some great projects like Leith Outer Berth, Glen Douglas, and South Bank Quay. Both CWRR and South Bank Quay were awarded a perfect Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) score and I'm sure Leith is the next contender for top marks.

Working all over the country, you build relationships with lots of different people you'd usually never meet, it's a great perk of the job.

### If you have any, what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?



I've got two young kids who take up a lot of my spare time. Lucy is nine and Brody is eleven.

When I'm not working or travelling for work, every weekend is pretty much spent going swimming, boxing, dancing - the list goes on!

Every now and again I do get out to the pub, thankfully we have good social meetings in the CWRR team. The project and contracts managers are really good at making sure everyone gets a bit of downtime and build relationships outside of the work setting.



### What did you want to be growing up?

I wanted to be a joiner like my dad, but I quickly realised I didn't have the practical skills at all. I am absolutely useless when it comes to any hands-on activities, but I still wanted to be involved with construction in some way.

The civils side of construction always interested me, working on bridge builds and highways, just massive projects. It's great I'm finally a part of that. My two kids actually think I'm building the bridge in Clydebank by myself.

### What's your aspirations for the future of social impact?

GRAHAM is already on the right track when it comes to planning for the future and how to grow social values.

The company is proactive when it comes to social values and finding new ventures, it's not just a copy and paste exercise. We are always out trying to find new innovative ways to deliver social values and the team are great at sharing information with each other to make sure the organisations are getting the full benefits from our projects. The more we do now, the better stead it puts us in for the future.



**Everyone's a winner when it comes to Social Value. I can't really put into words how much I enjoy my job!"**

**Gary Redpath  
Social Impact Business Partner  
(Civils)**

# Building North



## Impact Training (NI) Visits Nelson Street

**In April, our team at Nelson Street facilitated a site visit from Impact Training (NI), encouraging the new generation of construction workers.**

“The help and support we have received from GRAHAM construction has been overwhelming and a huge help in developing our trainees for future opportunities in the construction industry.”

- Thomson Harrison, Employer Engagement Team



# Life on Site for Vitalii Slobodian

**Vitalii Slobodian recently joined GRAHAM after immigrating to Scotland from Ukraine. Here he tells us all about his experience on site and how it's helped him gain new skills and friends.**

**Can you tell us your name, job title and the project you're currently working on?**

My name is Vitalii, I came here from Ukraine.

I work for GRAHAM on the Central Quay site - a landmark construction project for rent in Glasgow, which is now one of the tallest buildings in the city. 498 high-quality apartments will be created in four blocks with a height of 6 to 20 floors. Once completed, it will house more than 1,000 residents and will include a state-of-the-art gym, a landscaped courtyard, two roof terraces, a library and a cinema.

**How did you get the job in GRAHAM?**

I was offered this job at the Job Centre, but I had no previous experience in the field. I decided to try something new for myself. After the interview with Project Manager, Peter Brady, I felt that he was a reliable person who really knew the business and industry.

**What does a typical day on site involve?**

To date, I work in buildings. I keep the apartments clean and carry out tasks given to me by my supervisor. The tasks are always different. For example, we protected the windows with a film from the impact of facade works. My supervisor is Chris Moran. In case I need help or I do not know how to do something - I can always contact him.

**What has been the biggest challenge?**

It is difficult and at the same time interesting to do things that you have never done before. What's important is that work is always done in a safe manner so you don't harm yourself or anyone else.

Sometimes things are not obvious, so I seek advice from my supervisors who have more experience and know the right way to do things.

It's good that you can turn to experienced colleagues for guidance.

**What new skills and knowledge have you learnt along the way?**

I understand more about how construction works and how to perform new tasks properly.

Having already gained some experience, I can work more skilfully and quickly. Even when working with other people, I am now able to help them.

**What have you enjoyed most about working in GRAHAM and what impact has this had on you?**

Many people work for GRAHAM, which makes it possible to make new acquaintances.

GRAHAM gives you the opportunity to work depending on your needs. If I find it difficult to do something, I can ask for help or change my task.

Everyone does what they can and if you are interested in a specific job, you can ask if you can learn it.

# Building South

## Our Pre-employment Programme Model CRE-8 has been a Success!

Collaborating with our partners, we aim to address a decline in new entrants at the local, regional, and national levels in the industry. We do this by providing a programme focused on delivering the Construction Skills Certification Scheme accreditation, work-based experience and opportunities to sustained local employment.

The latest programmes have enabled all successfully completed delegates to access tangible direct and indirect local employment offers.

APRIL 2023



**Congratulations to our partners for their amazing work and a big thank you to everyone involved."**

- Ronan Hughes, Regional Director



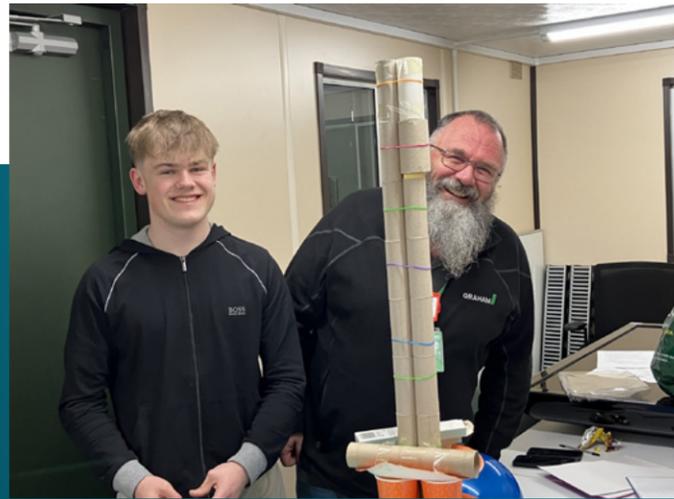


## Helping local people in crisis



A huge thank you to #TeamGrahamBFS for donating and providing funds to purchase essential toiletries for the North Belfast Food Bank, next to the Belfast Film Studios project."

- Suzi Gamble, Personal Assistant



APRIL 2023

## Students Attend GAM Work Experience in Oxford

Following a recent visit to the St Birinus School Careers Day, our UKRI colleagues completed a week-long work experience programme for two lucky students – Henry and Owen.

Both were introduced to various different departments within the contract and GRAHAM to gain a better understanding on how works are assigned and completed within FM.

# Facilities Management

April

MAY 2023

Civils

# Gorleston-On-Sea Litter Pick

On 17th May, a team of 17 volunteers contributed 34 hours to a litter pick at the Gorleston-on-Sea promenade, play parks and residential areas.

With a cross-company team working collaboratively together, they each managed to fill a bag of litter from the areas close to the seafront and tourist attractions.

GRAHAM, Colas, Highway Assurance, Ringway and Topbond were at the event after an initial call-out for volunteers from the lead organisers at Colas and GRAHAM.

MAY 2023



## Building North

### Three Months of Volunteer Time at Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity has recognised the efforts of the big-hearted GRAHAM team, who have dedicated three months of volunteer time to the charity.

An enthusiastic squad of 14 volunteers from GRAHAM worked tirelessly, clocking up over 50 hours to help the hospital take down its annual Easter decoration display.

May

May

## GRAHAM Supports Men Matter Scotland Charity with Kitchen Donation

GRAHAM donated a much needed new kitchen to 'Men Matter Scotland', a Glasgow-based charity that supports positive mental, physical and emotional health and wellbeing for men.

The new kitchen will host many cooking classes, helping Men Matter Scotland's users develop new skills and build their independence.



May

# SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT

## Suzanne Stevenson

**Suzanne Stevenson is a Social Impact Adviser for Building North, who has been working in GRAHAM for over 6 years.**

**Born and raised in Falkirk, Scotland, Suzanne lives with her husband and recently found a new hobby – despite her previous fear of water!**

Here's what she had to say...

### What made you want to get involved in social impact?

My background has always been community benefits, mainly working with schools, communities and helping people into work. It's so rewarding because you're getting people into work or helping disadvantaged youths that would never be given some of the opportunities we offer.

I love visiting schools and engaging with young people by showing them different routes into construction they didn't know about. Then getting to see them a year down the line in full-time employment, it's a great feeling.



### Why are you so passionate about social impact?

I just love working with the communities and showcasing the advantages our projects can bring.

Seeing children's faces when they get into their new schools or facilities, it's magical.

I've met so many young teens that are so down beaten and think they've no future, because that's all they've been told, so going in and talking to them about their options and getting them into work is so rewarding.

### What have been the highlights of your career to date?

We worked on a project over in Meadowbank and got in touch with a local school in the area who told us they were never able to start a football team, because they couldn't afford any kit or equipment. So, we donated a football strip and a training kit to the school.

I remember after we gave them the strips and took a few photos at the site, they insisted on walking back to school in their new kit because they were so excited. That was a really enjoyable project, just to see their faces and that spark in them again.

### What projects have you been working on in the last 12 months?

The Baird and Anchor is a pretty high value project with some great work going on.

We were also down at York University which is gathering up all the awards. One of the companies there took on about 60-70 people who were mostly apprentices. I think in total around 118 new jobs were created on that project, so the lasting impact in the area is amazing.



**If you have any, what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

I've recently taken up paddle boarding and kayaking, which came as a huge surprise to most people given my fear of boats and water.

My husband and I were on a trip last year and I saw a couple of people out paddle boarding and I thought to myself, 'I like the look of that!' so I went and got all the kit, bought myself a new board and I haven't looked back since.

I recently bought myself a little camper van and take myself off at the weekend to different spots to kayak and paddle board.

I also knit and crochet baby items for our local hospital for the premature babies.

**What did you want to be growing up?**

When I was young, I wanted to be a children's nanny. My plan was to become a children's nanny for a couple in Canada and holiday with them all over the world. But when I turned 16, I decided to leave school and get a job.

Never in a million years did I think

I would get into the construction industry; I actually got my law degree after I had my children and worked for a few years in Parliament. After that I kind of fell into construction as a Site Admin and as they say - the rest is history.

**What's your aspirations for the future of social impact?**

I hope we make a really good lasting impact and a positive legacy long after we are gone - it's not just the buildings we want to leave behind.

Social value has really taken off over the past few years and it's becoming a top priority, so I hope it becomes a driving force for good.



**I hope we make a really good lasting impact and a positive legacy long after we are gone."**

**Suzanne Stevenson  
Social Impact Advisor  
(Building North)**

# Building South

MAY 2023



## Blackpool Centre Partnership

Our Houndshell development in Blackpool recently proved that our goal - to not only work towards the completion of the building itself, but also towards the whole community - is the right approach to delivering a lasting impact.

When GRAHAM decided to replace more than 100 pieces of equipment stolen from Blackpool Centre for Independent Living in a donation that replaced all stolen items, we could not imagine the impact it would have on the team's wellbeing, whose woodworking shed is an instrumental part of their life.



After the truly amazing tool donation given by GRAHAM last year, The New Langdale Green Team were able to think differently about both what we can achieve, and indeed what we deliver - changing expectation and the existing service model."

- Neil Froggett, New Langdale Service Coordinator



## Dragon Boat Race Team Becomes One of the 100 Heroes

The 100 Heroes title is presented to all fund-raisers and volunteers who have supported Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity over the past 12 months.

Their achievements are commemorated with a special red balloon at the front of the hospital, which will be on display for the next 12 months.

The Midlands Regional project team collected the reward for their effort at last year's Birmingham's Dragon Boat Race.

Team GRAHAM (aka 'The Good Ship GRAHAM') consisted of a crew of 17, captained by team skipper Dean Bradbury, Contracts Manager.



Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity is a charity that is very close to my heart and we are grateful to be involved in such an amazing fundraising event."

**Megan Goodwin**



MAY 2023

## Oxford Sites Work Experience Students - Joe and Edward

Following recent work experience programmes, the FM team welcomed another two students, Joe and Edward, to their Oxford sites.

Both students were introduced to different departments to learn about how they work and the importance of each area of the business.

Their experience in GRAHAM then concluded with 'The Egg Drop Challenge'.

# Facilities Management

May

# Interior Fit-Out



MAY 2023

## Interior Fit-Out Team Donate Over Five Hours to Help Cancer Charity

Each year, cancer charity Macmillan send 'thank you' cards to supporters to show their appreciation and say thanks.

This year, Althea Lamond and Patsy Evans volunteered five hours between them to write 50 cards with personal messages of thanks on behalf of Macmillan.

Well done Althea and Patsy!

May

## Fit-out Brings Studies to Life

Our Interior Fit-out team is working with clients Microsoft, Aflac Northern Ireland and B-Secure at the new City Quays 3 building in Belfast.

The project teams are pro-actively engaging with students and bringing to life their studies by offering site visits to enhance their learning and understanding of how projects help to bring visions to fruition.



May

May

**Celebrating**

**1-7 JUNE**  
**VOLUNTEERS' WEEK**

Well done to our GRAHAM volunteers who commit, influence and inspire every day

**232**  
GRAHAM Volunteer Days

**279**  
GRAHAM volunteers

**1624**  
hours volunteered

## Celebrating Volunteers Week

Amazing work from our 297 volunteers at GRAHAM who have collectively spent 1,624 hours volunteering in their local communities, totalling 232 days.

Well done to everyone involved.

Group



**VOLUNTEERS'  
WEEK**

**Day  
5**

**I am**  
**Andy Keown**  
*charity champion*

Project Manager, GRAHAM Interior Fit-Out

Seeing a large Air Ambulance NI banner close to home was my first step into volunteering. One email and an induction call later and I was sold. Most of my time involves managing collections across 3 counties alongside fundraising events. Finding the time to volunteer in a busy work and home life can be a challenge but when I'm leaving overflowing collection cans into the AANI HQ, it makes all the juggling worthwhile. In my spare time, I help out at our local GAA club and as a family we volunteer at the local Down Syndrome group that our daughter Tess attends. It's fair to say life is busy but that's how I like it! It's great to be able to volunteer in some capacity and I know that GRAHAM will always offer me the flexibility to make that happen.



Andy Keown, Charity Champion and Project Manager, tells us about the many different charities he and his family volunteer with.

He praised GRAHAM for giving him the time to carry out this vital work.

Well done Andy!

# Building South



## GRAHAM Rewarded at Procure Partnerships Framework Social Value Awards

GRAHAM was rewarded at the Procure Partnerships Framework Social Value Awards 2023 for the phenomenal social impact we delivered in Blackpool on the Hounds Hill Shopping Centre Extension.

Procure Partnerships Framework (PPF) hosted their first Social Value Awards in the beautiful surroundings of The Grand Hotel, Birmingham, which GRAHAM completed the restoration and refurbishment of in 2020. Over 300 leading Social Value and Construction representatives from the industry attended.



**Winning the award for Social Value Delivery for a regeneration project is recognition of the collaborative relationships we have nurtured and developed with our community partners."**

- Louise Seddon, Social Impact Business Partner



## Wild Flower Sowing with Lowwood Nursery Unit

June



Great fun had by all during an environmental project with 52 busy bees at Lowwood Nursery Unit.

They designed bee pictures and sowed their own wild flower mini pots with GRAHAM seeds for our 'smile board' at Belfast Film Studios.

**No one on site can walk past without a smile when they see the local children's wonderful work."**

- Suzi Gamble, Personal Assistant

June



## Facilities Management

### GAM attend Solihull Council Careers Fair

Regional Director, Alan Millar, and Regional Service Delivery Manager, Tammy Stretton-Yeomans attended the Solihull Council Careers Fair, which brought job seekers face-to-face with potential employers and for some maybe a first since lock down.

With a long-standing presence in the area, Alan and Tammy were on-hand to provide guidance and advice on a career in Facilities Management, and the opportunities GRAHAM has in the area to over 190 participants on the day.

# Interior Fit-Out

JUNE 2023



## GRAHAM Interior Fit-Out team up with GoGreen for Volunteers Week

The Interior Fit-Out team collaborated with GoGreen to assist Hatfield Moor Nature Reserve.

They carried out lots of different activities including:

- Creating a walking tunnel out of a willow bush
- Planting new flowers around the site
- Installing turf around the edge of a pond
- Building a 'bug hotel' out of natural materials
- Weeding invasive poisonous plants

# Group



## Buy Social 'Talk and Tour' at Head Office

Job coaches from Women's TEC, GEMS NI, Extern, Lisburn Jobs and Benefits Office and Department for Communities, greatly enjoyed their first visit to Head Office earlier in July.

Following visits to our projects where job coaches learned about site-based roles and explored Buy Social (entry-level) paid opportunities, the visit to Hillsborough enabled the employment providers to broaden their understanding of construction workplaces and the wide range of roles and opportunities 'behind the scenes'.



## GRAHAM Volunteers Meet & Greet Chapter One Pupils

At the end of the academic year, some of our Chapter One volunteers had the opportunity to meet their own 'reading buddy', after twelve months of improving their literacy skills through weekly 30 minute reading sessions.



## Stephen Visits HMP Channings Wood Prison for Careers Fair

This July, Social Impact Business Partner, Stephen Hughes, visited HMP Channings Wood in South West Exeter to deliver a careers fair to over 100 inmates who are due for release within 12 weeks.

The event was organised by the Resettlement Team at Weston College who have a contract with HM Prison and Probation Service to support prisoners on their release and help to ensure they have a plan in place, which includes accommodation and a job that prevents them from returning to prison as repeat offenders.



**Everyone, regardless of their past, deserves an opportunity to gain meaningful employment."**

- Stephen Hughes, Social Impact Business Partner



## Building North

### Apprenticeship Offered After Student Impresses On Site

Given there is a much discussed skills shortage in construction, we are proud that our project partners also share our commitment to developing young people.

Angus Kelly wrote a letter to our team in Building North, asking if we could facilitate work experience at our Bonnington Road Lane site in Edinburgh. Stothers M&E stepped up and provided an opportunity for Angus to learn about the skills needed to be an electrician - and he thrived.

Now, Angus has been offered an apprenticeship with Stothers.



## Facilities Management

### FM Attend Mock Interviews at Alderbrook School

On Monday 3rd July, Lynne Burton-Giffin and Tammy Stretton-Yeomans attended Alderbrook School to support with mock interviews for year 10 students.

Students were given job adverts for different sectors and had to apply for an interview in their chosen sector.

Students were then able to receive feedback on the application from Lynne and Tammy.

Issue 2

# IMPACT

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Social Impact Stories