

3 June 2010

Press Release

THE HOUSE THAT HOWARTH BUILT – IN JUST A DAY

Construction students at Cambridge Regional College are learning their skills on a new timber-framed house – delivered and built in a day, thanks to a generous donation by the Howarth Timber Group.

The firm, the largest privately-owned Timber Company in the UK, came to the aid of the College when an existing building used for training began to show signs of serious wear.



The house goes up: CRC principal Rick Dearing and Construction Academy head John Malone with Jason Dorks and Gary Coulson from Howarth Timber

They designed a two-storey building to fit into the SmartLife Centre – home of CRC’s Modern Methods of Construction courses – and delivered the flat-pack structure on the back of a lorry ready to be erected.

Skilled Howarth erectors went to work, passing on valuable tips to the students assisting them – and just six hours later the house was up and ready to be used in training sessions.

The five-metre high building, designed and produced at Howarth Timber Engineering Ltd’s Bury St Edmunds factory, was screwed together, rather than nailed, so that it could be erected and dismantled by students on the Modern Methods of Construction course.

John Malone, head of CRC’s Construction Academy, said the College was extremely grateful for the donation.

“Howarth has been extraordinarily generous in providing us with the building, which we hope to use for many years to help our students learn environmentally-sound and innovative construction methods.

“The company has designed the house especially for us, so that it sits perfectly within our SmartLife Centre where we carry out much of our construction training, and can be built and re-built time and again. We’re very grateful to Howarth for their generosity.”

Gary Coulson, from Howarth, said the company was delighted to be able to help CRC by providing a building for students to work on.

“We were impressed by the College’s teaching of green methods of construction to students, and were very happy to help by donating a building which will help the students learn.

“All our timber buildings score very highly on eco points, and our timber can be traced back directly to the forest where it was logged by means of Chain of Custody Certification under the FSC, PEFC, CSA, SFI and MTCC schemes.”

Howarth Timber Group is the largest privately-owned Timber Company in the UK. It produces over 250,000 roof trusses each year, provides floors and flat roofs for about 12,500 houses, and designs and builds more than 1,500 timber frame houses each year, a large majority of which they supply and erect.

The company, founded in the 1840s, encompasses 28 Timber and Builders merchant branches, Howarth Windows & Doors and Howarth Timber Engineering. It also has a thriving self-build business.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.