

# CBC Cemplas celebrate 40 years of business!

Cemplas Waterproofing & Concrete Repairs Ltd was formed in 1969, working out of a garden shed in Carshalton. Cemplas has grown steadily over 40 years and now occupies three floors of offices within Holbrook House in central Croydon.

Turnover back in the early days was circa £3,000 p.a, which grew steadily to £300,000 in the mid-eighties, and it was then that current owner and M.D, Tony Blencowe, purchased the business from the original owners. Since then growth and expansion has led to the company turning over nearly £4,000,000.

Cemplas is now celebrating its 40th anniversary and is drawing on its decades of experience and knowledge within the construction industry to plan the next step of its business life by building on the high quality service for which they have become renowned.

Lying at the heart of the success of Cemplas, and ensuring demand is met and relations maintained, is a strong team of Contract managers, site operatives and administration staff, many of whom have at least 15 years service with the company.

With a view to driving the business forward further, 2006 saw the appointment of Paul Stacey as 'Business Development Manager' to develop and maximise future opportunities. At the beginning of 2007 the company launched a new company brochure to coincide with the launch of its new web site. The focused and proactive approach Cemplas have adopted has led to an ever increasing workload. In 2008 Tony made further appointments of a senior estimator and contracts co-ordinator, together with Jerry Robertson being appointed from Manager to Commercial Director.

The most recent addition to the company, of which Tony is very proud, is his son Liam. Liam has started at the bottom in the role of administration assistant, with the aim to learn all aspects of the business and ensure the future of Cemplas remains in the family for at least another 40 years.

To mark this special anniversary, Update is



Waterproofing around the Albert Hall

featuring some of their most memorable projects from the last few years.

## Royal Albert Hall

Built between 1867 and 1871 to the design of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Scott, the Royal Albert Hall was the brainchild of Queen Victoria's late husband Prince Albert, and Queen Victoria herself opened it in 1871.

The Royal Albert Hall was constructed mainly of brick, with terra cotta block decoration. The dome on top was made of steel and glazed, interestingly there was a trial assembly made of the steel framework of the dome in Manchester, which was then it was taken apart and transported down to London via horse and cart and reassembled during the construction.



The Treasury Building

The principle Main Contractor Taylor Woodrow were tasked with creating a new concrete construction beneath the existing south steps, the area was excavated to provide a below ground structure that would be used for parking and plant rooms.

On completion of the excavation and new structure, prior to the original south steps being reinstated, to prevent water seeping through to critical dry areas below, Cemplas were awarded the £300K contract to waterproof over 7000 square metres of the new suspended deck, steps, and vast planters.

To meet the demands of today's fast track programmes without compromising on performance, Cemplas used Procor, a self curing, spray applied waterproofing system which can be applied as early as three days after pouring, and sets within 24 hours to form a monolithic, flexible rubber waterproof membrane.

The Royal Albert Hall is one of London's most prestigious historic buildings and tourist attractions, and Cemplas are proud to have played a part in prolonging the life of this historic structure.

## The Treasury Building (GOGGS)

Cemplas are also proud to have been involved in the major refurbishment to the building known as the 'Government Offices Great George St' (GOGGS). The building is a prominent Grade II listed landmark built between 1910 and 1917. By 1994 its condition had deteriorated, and

major refurbishment was needed to meet modern environmental and operational standards, while still respecting its heritage and position in the Whitehall landscape.

During the build-up to the 2nd World War the basement of GOGGS was chosen as the site for the Cabinet War rooms, partly because its concrete frame would help prevent the collapse of the building should it receive a direct hit from a bomb. To protect the basement, a thick bomb-proof concrete slab was constructed within the rooms at sub-ground floor level, and a large torpedo net was slung across the western courtyard to catch any falling bombs, and air was filtered through a series of vents and ducts to guard against poison gases.

Working closely with Waterman consultant engineers, Cemplas was appointed to carry out a variety of tasks to this grand structure which included undertaking in excess of £230K of multi-discipline remedial repair works. Repairs were undertaken to the buildings many light wells, staircases, and in many of its 2.1 miles of corridors. Repairs were also undertaken in confined locations under the Cabinet War Rooms. Additional works undertaken by Cemplas involved repairing and treatment to the structural steelwork, together with investigation and substantial reinstatement of all defective concrete including repairs to the Portland stone, and crack injection repairs to brickwork.

Bovis Lend Lease were the principle appointed contractor, and the completed refurbishment, which will enable all HM Treasury staff to work in the same building for the first time in over 50 years, was delivered on budget, and two months ahead of the program.

### **Cadogan Hall, Chelsea**

Located in Chelsea, Cadogan Hall is the first permanently dedicated home for a London orchestra after the multimillion-pound



Cadogan Hall

restoration made possible by a gift from one of the capital's wealthiest landlords, Cadogan Estates Ltd.

Previously, this fine building, completed in 1907 to designs by the architect Robert Fellowes Chisholm, was the First Church of Christ, Scientist. By 1996, the congregations had diminished dramatically and the building fell into disuse, so plans for restoration were put in place.

As a part of the restoration project, Cemplas were successful with their £130k tender, and were appointed by the main contractor Walter Lilly to provide a cost effective solution to transform over 1500m<sup>2</sup> of dilapidated basement areas.

Cemplas operate a dedicated Sika1 workforce, and provide a full design, planning, and installation service, to waterproofing any below ground structures.

The work was carried out by applying Sika1, waterproofing multi-layer render and slurries system. To cater for the expansion joints, Sikadur-combiflex was installed to the junctions of the walls and floor.

The work carried out by Cemplas resulted in transforming the previous unusable basement areas in to fully useable dry storage areas, allowing the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, who are the resident music ensemble, to store their instruments in a damp-free environment for many years to come.

### **Addenbrookes Hospital MSCP, Cambridge**

As an expanding hospital, the Health Trust needed to provide additional parking for its staff. The project was put out to open tender for a new design and build structure, which needed to be fairly lightweight in its construction.

The main contract was won by Laing O'Rourke, and Cemplas were appointed the £180K package to waterproof the top deck car parking area.

Cemplas provides an uncompromising approach to quality of service, and pride themselves with their knowledge and experience gained since they were formed in 1969. Recognising that 'one size fits all' is not the correct approach to providing clients with a premium parking area, Cemplas will always seek to ensure that the best value and most cost effective solutions are implemented.

Croydon-based Cemplas can be contacted on **020 8654 3149** or visit [www.cemplas.co.uk](http://www.cemplas.co.uk)



The new car park at Addenbrooke's Hospital



In addition to their work on well-known landmarks, Cemplas also created this Clapham swimming pool for a private client.