

# The TimberFramer

Issue Number 1  
Spring/Summer 2005

News from the World of Building with Timber

new

## w e l c o m e : your new timber structures newsletter

In 2004, a Construction company won a Business in the Community Award for the first time ever (and they'll probably get it this year too). It's no surprise that this was won by a timber frame firm - could steel or 'wet' builders prove their life-long worth to the community? Probably not.

*Timber Frame is increasingly becoming high-profile and is now recognised as the only renewable method of building in the UK. In such a fast-moving industry it's important to keep on top of what's going on.*

## f a s t f a c t s : trusses

- Although timber Roof Rafters trace back to Medieval times, 'timber triangles' only started to be fully engineered when Robert Stephenson unveiled his newest and strongest bridge design after the River Dee disaster in 1847.



Sketch by Stephenson using engineered Timber 'Triangles'

- Engineered Truss Roofs are up to 40% more energy efficient than conventional roofs.
- Project-specific engineered Trussed Rafter roofs are available in 15 days!



## Discussion

**This issue, Professor Benfield explores the UK's ever-worsening Housing Crisis...**

**Finally!** John Prescott, Nigel Griffiths, the UK Government and their lackeys have finally joined Uncle Tom Cobley - and all - in recognising the enormous contribution that Timber Frame MMC (Modern Methods of Construction) can make to producing more houses AND addressing Global Warming, etc. Unfortunately they are still living in cloud cuckoo land - with *land* being the operative word....

*Continued overleaf...*

## n e w s b r i e f

### Planning Fees Set to Rise

Planning fees in Wales are set to rise by 10% this autumn. This is the last across-the-board system increase before a new system is introduced.

### Changes to Building Regs

The final recommendation for Part L amendments is likely to be for a U-Value of 0.27. Timber Frame industry insiders are extremely happy with this movement and view it as another push towards making timber frame construction the building method of the future.

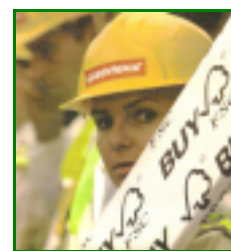


Image source: Contract Journal

### Homebase Vs B&Q

Homebase has beaten DIY giant B&Q to become the first FSC Certified DIY retailer for its entire store network.

### Robust Standard Details

The Robust Standard Details for timber frame have taken off, with a break-even first year. Robust Standard Details permit Timber Frame construction to comply with Building Regulations Part E without the need for post-completion testing.



### Benfield AT...TV

Discovery Home & Leisure have bought the rights to air Benfield ATT's ITV series 'House Race' for the next two

## NEW FOR SPRING 2005!

### Flexi-Garden Cabin Kits

Starting at £620 (including VAT and Home Delivery) this high-value range of DIY garden kits is one of the biggest-selling garden room kits in the UK, and make perfect hobby rooms, games rooms, potting sheds and summer-houses.



...and each kit comes with full colour instructions for easy DIY...and even includes access to a Lo-Call help line number to help with those DIY problems!

Available from Benfield ATT  
01291 437050  
www.benfieldatt.co.uk

### Flexi-Garden Decking Kits

These Decking Kits are the ultimate accessory for the summer garden. Choose from Decking and Pergola Kit options to add a real design centrepiece to your garden.

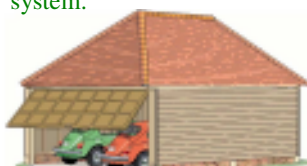


And when they start at £259 - including VAT and delivery - you can't afford not to!

Available from Benfield ATT  
01291 437050  
www.benfieldatt.co.uk

### Flexi-Build Garage Kits

This exclusive Flexi-Build system fuses Beamlock structural Post & Beams with Roof Trusses, Walls and Cladding Systems for the ultimate flexible building system.



When a Single Garage can increase your property value by around 10% and a Double Garage by around 20% (source: 'The One: Financial'), you can't miss out on this range that offers Kits for just £2,445! (excluding VAT and Home Delivery)

Available from Benfield ATT  
01291 437050

**Welcome to the First Ever  
Issue of The TimberFramer!**

More news and PDF version at [www.benfieldatt.co.uk](http://www.benfieldatt.co.uk)

## the case for timber frame: feature

As its name implies, **Timber Frame** construction is a method of building which relies on a timber frame as a basic means of structural support. Stiffened by sheathing material, panellised frames are capable of withstanding lateral loads and of supporting multi-storey (up to seven storeys) and wide span structures.



Factory-manufactured Timber Frame guarantees the highest level of accuracy and quality and simplifies on-site building.

During construction the timber frame is covered internally by plasterboard and filled with high performance insulation.

Externally, moisture/vapour barriers are incorporated and the outer leaf of the wall completes the structure. The outer leaf is typically stone, brick, render or timber.

**Timber Frame** is the fastest growing method of construction in the UK. Over five years from 1998 figures show Timber Frame's UK market share has doubled. So, clearly people are choosing Timber Frame – and these are people in the know...the builders, architects, contractors, developers and specifiers!



Images with thanks to wood. for good.

Lets **Build the Future - together**

## professor benfield: discussion arena

...continued from Front Page

*Yes, Prescott can have his extra 10,000 social rented houses. Yes, he can have another 1.1 million more homes in the South East. Yes, he can have more, cheaper houses – with thanks to Nigel for acknowledging that “higher upfront costs of off-site manufacture are more than compensated for by on-site efficiency and improved safety”.*



**BUT – he can only have all of this IF he gives us more land to put them on!**

*Come on 2 Jags...even you can't be silly enough not to recognise that building houses is not the same as building cars. If the car factory cranks up production, their products just spill out onto our (overcrowded) roads – no restriction. When our house factory does the same we come to a rapid stop because there is nowhere to put them.*

*ACTUALLY, old chap, it's a bit more complicated than this.*

*Cranking up production means heavy industrial investment – whether you're making cars, houses, or wheely bins. To justify that investment you need continuous, uninterrupted – and preferably expanding – demand for your products. Whereas, the UK planning system – itself rapidly grinding to a halt – begrudgingly dribbles development land out in miserly amounts and at undetermined – but lengthening – time intervals. And that's no basis for persuading anyone to invest in the high tech equipment, expensive R&D, and essential new training that delivering your demands requires.*

*So, come on John, get a grip! Start using some of your Deputy Prime Ministerial muscle. Instead of letting your minions waste even more time consulting and arguing about what to do – DO IT! Recognise that the UK housing crisis is rapidly turning into a disaster every bit as real as what was faced in 1945 and has happened elsewhere in the world since Christmas, and take similar actions. Give us more land to build on – NOW!*

## Welcome to the Team!



**Paul Davies**  
BSc (Hons) AIWSc  
North West & North Wales:  
0151 3348878

**Paul Davies**, who comes on board with Benfield ATT as a Technical Sales Consultant for the North West and North Wales region, has many years experience in Timber Frame construction and Technical Sales Management.

*Paul has served on prestigious governing bodies, including the Institute of Wood Science. His presence in the North West ensures only the best service for Benfield ATT clients and partnering architects, builders and developers.*

## Ask our Experts...

**The apparently 'wise' within the UK construction industry are promoting timber as 'green', but its use is driving deforestation, isn't it?**

*Mr O'Connel via Email*

No, on the contrary. Under EU regulations, all harvested trees must be replaced (at the very least) meaning the more trees that are harvested, the more trees are planted. In Europe we only harvest around 65% of annual growth resulting in a huge surplus of European timber - in fact Europe's forests are increasing by the area of Cyprus every year! 97% of timber used in construction is European timber, so it could be argued that the industry is actually responsible for forest growth!

*If you are worried about the source of timber in your build project, specify FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Chain of Custody - the only certification endorsed by The National Trust, Greenpeace and WWF.*

## fast facts: environment

- Wood products achieve negative net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions - lower than any other building material!
- Wood's thermal efficiency means Timber Frame houses use less energy to heat
- A 10% increase in the number of Timber Frame homes built every year in Europe would result in a significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Growing trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere at a rate of 1 tonne per m<sup>3</sup> of growth and convert it into carbohydrates through photosynthesis. This releases healthy oxygen and helps reduce Climate Change.

*These facts have been kindly supplied by wood. for good - the UK's largest ever timber-focused promotional campaign*



wood. for good.

## Web Watch

*Useful and interesting websites we enjoy...*

[www.greenspec.co.uk](http://www.greenspec.co.uk) - Specifications for 'Green' products

[www.fsc-uk.org](http://www.fsc-uk.org) - Check your nearest FSC Supplier

[www.asktrada.com](http://www.asktrada.com) - All the info you will ever need on timber