

*Celebrating  
60 Years*



*Established 1962*

# Stephenson's History

The founding Company, Stephenson Shuttering Contractors Ltd, was formed on the 20th February 1962 by Richard John Stephenson, better known as 'Dick' Stephenson. Born in the east end of London within a family of builders, his father Richard Eden Stephenson, a trained carpenter who later became a project manager, and his uncles all worked in the industry. Dick, at the age of 16, worked with his father in Scotland on Airfields and Submarine bases at the start of WWII. He joined the RAF in 1943 and ended his flying career as a Flight SGT based in Canada, at Vancouver Island, flying in Liberators fighting over the Pacific.

After the war he started working as a carpenter repairing bomb damaged properties in London. Eventually he found his niche as a shuttering Carpenter quickly working his way up the ladder as chargehand, foreman, project manager, contracts manager, eventually joining SGB, who were the leading shuttering / falsework company in the UK at that time, as the manager for London. In 1962, seizing the opportunity to start out on his own he formed Stephenson Shuttering Contractors Ltd laying the strong foundations and reputation of the Stephenson name.

Dick's son, Martin Stephenson, following a hands on upbringing of weekend site seeing (building sites not tourist attractions), joined his father at the age of 16 initially working during school holidays then full time at the age of 19. Initially working on the tools, he soon developed an appetite to run his own projects and start his own business working in parallel with his father's Shuttering business. SSC Ltd was formed by him in 1984 to encompass all the activities necessary for the construction of the RC Frame. Following the untimely and sudden death of Dick Stephenson in December 1986, the two businesses have worked as one.

With a strong flexible team, strategically we have managed to successfully grow the businesses by expanding our scope of work and geographical coverage of the UK in all of the Reinforced Concrete sectors. This, along with strengthening our own construction and property development capability, leads us confidently into the future.



*Stephenson Shuttering  
Contractors Ltd*





1962 - Stephenson Shuttering Contractors LTD

1984 - SSC Construction Services LTD

2002 - Stephenson LTD

2002 - M R Stephenson LTD

2004 - Stephenson (Shell & Core) LTD

2007 - Stephenson Construction (North) LTD

2007 - Stephenson Civils LTD

2007 - Stephenson Development (Southern) Holdings LTD

2010 - S C Contractors LTD

2010 - Stephenson Construction (Southern) LTD

2015 - SSC Contractors LTD

# Some Award Highlights

2006 & 2007 Concrete Society Awards.

Finalists in 2008 and Winner of 2009 & 2010 of the Specialist Awards sponsored by Construct.



## BDO Awards

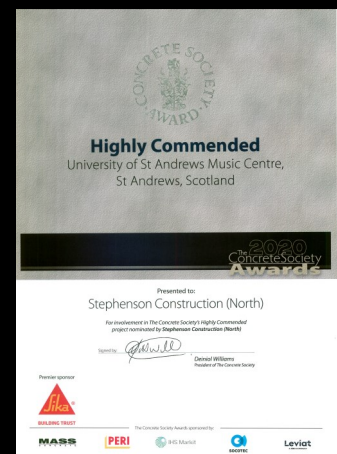
Best in Business (Company of the Year Award) Runner Up - 2016

Best in Business (A Best Performing Business for Sales Growth) - 2016

Best in Business (A Best Performing Business for Sales Growth) - 2017

Best reinforced concrete design & build company in the UK at the Sustainable Building Awards 2017.

Stephenson Construction (North) received a Highly Commended award from the 2020 Concrete Society Awards on the University of St. Andrews Music Centre project in Scotland.



# Martin Stephenson

Chairman

“One of my early teen ambitions was to become an Architect. Growing up in a hands on business working during school holidays I was told in no uncertain terms that most Architects don’t know how to build - “get your hand dirty for a year and learn how it’s done” - I did just that, but never left.

My father led by example and made it very clear that you have to make your own opportunities in life only reaping the rewards of what you put in. Having experienced him making hard decisions whilst navigating the challenging cycles of the industry, the most important factor to him was retaining the key people who make up the business. His word, along with a vice like handshake, was all you needed to know about his and therefore the companies commitment to deliver. These remain amongst our core principles which are embedded in our company's culture.

Whilst it has been an enjoyable challenge developing and growing the companies, as most people in the industry know it can be a love hate relationship in terms of what we do. The enduring factor that binds us together are our friends, colleagues and all the people we meet and deal with on a day to day basis. I have always felt that everyone joining us should have the opportunity to fulfil their own ambitions. For me one of the most rewarding aspects has been working alongside people in the business at all levels, witnessing the growth in their personal development, capabilities and professionalism. It is equally encouraging that many of us now have our next generation working within the business.

We are proud to have been at the forefront of developing new techniques and the first to use many new products for the construction of concrete structures, which has led us to build some of the most prestigious and award winning projects around the country. With our development and construction arms we are proactively engaging with new technologies and processes to enable efficient and sustainable buildings for the future.

I look forward to our next chapter.....”

# Toby Hemsley

Managing Director

“I first joined the company in 1996 as a slinger / signaller and was promoted to regional director in 2008 and then on to managing director in 2012. My growth has been a bit of a fairy tale, the organic growth has been one that I am very proud of, coming through the ranks all the way to managing director. The industry has changed massively in my 34 years in construction, what was once a very male and British based sector, to now a very heavily European work force, and women in construction are an everyday part. We at Stephenson have always had an all inclusive approach and are proud to have 2 out of 8 directors as women. We have brought many young people into the company in all areas including sites, offices and the yard, and I am really happy when I see them grow into fine team members. Many hard decisions have been made through recessions and more recently with the covid pandemic, and we have always tried our very best to be fair with everyone at all times. We have approached the long overdue situation with mental health awareness by supporting the lighthouse club charity, promoting as many people that are willing to become mental health first aiders, and have an open door policy.

I have so many great memories of this fantastic company, from winning awards, delivery land mark buildings all over the country and most of all when we get as many people together to enjoy social events. I have the upmost respect for Martin for giving me every opportunity to date, I am so grateful to my fellow directors for the support that they give me to help run the company, and as importantly every one who wears our badge from the very bottom to the top. I would like to keep building the company and see more members join the board, and push us into new areas adapting all the new methods of modern construction in this ever changing world. From our humble beginning we have to be proud of where we are today, we are the go to company for many of our partners, we are now winning contracts that some of our competition would be fully envious of and long may that continue.”

# Ellie Sheil

Financial Director

“I joined Stephenson as a bookkeeper back in the day when things were done still in actual ledger books by hand in November 1995. I became a qualified accountant in 2001 and introduced the first computer accounting system within the first year of employment. I was appointed director in 2013 and the most rewarding thing has been watching the business grow and also growing with personal development alongside it, making sure we have systems in place to aid smooth running and accurate reporting of how the business is performing. I also enjoy watching and guiding other teams members to grow and encourage their ambitions to develop. I manage all Stephenson companies, which is many, and putting everything together is both challenging and rewarding at the same time. Unfortunately there are always tough decisions to make in a crisis, however as a business we have always ridden through tough times, whether it be recessions or the recent pandemic. The team adapt to accommodate the crisis to ensure that the business can survive in the long term, and by doing this we have achieved a strong well placed business within the industry that rightly should be proud of its 60 years of trading. I believe the wider team respect the tough decisions we have to make and are as supporting of this, as we are of them on a daily basis.

My favourite memories are definitely back when I started - we worked in The Barn with Sid & Co. the geese outside on the pond, the cats Tinkerbelle, Mighty and Whitey who regularly came became my seat companions and who I completely adored, and making a cup of tea with a donkey face in the window, where he should not have been but had escaped the field and was enjoying the garden plants! What can I say... we make a great team. There's a few of us that have been working together since our 20's going back to the 1990's, growing up through the various positions to become the people we are now. I have no doubt that Stephenson will continue to grow as there is ambition within us all to strive and make the business the best it can be and continue to uphold and improve its reputation as one of the leading RC Frame contractors. The business had proven that it is capable of expanding from just RC frames. We now incorporate groundworks packages, shell & core, and have several successful development projects over the years. The expansions have always been carried out in a controlled way to ensure sustainability in the business and this philosophy will continue as we expand further in the next few years.”

## Conn O’Sullivan

Operations Director

“I started working with Stephenson in February 1989 and became regional director in 2017. When I first started, things were mostly done from scratch with timber shutters etc. I worked under some really good experienced foremen and progressed to running my own project in 1994. From there on to contracts manager and then to regional director which was for me, a great personal achievement. I find it very enjoyable to run teams on different sites and learning something new or different every day from the site teams and fellow directors. I think there are lots of proud moments over the years like building high risers, taking on slipform project ourselves all of the UK and using various types of falsework. I think we work well together and have the same goals and are there for each other whenever a problem arises. I would like to see the company continue to grow and start to bring on the new generation of people in to carry the journey on. The company has grown massively over the years with projects all over the UK and I think the team is up there with the best formwork companies in the country.”

## Brendan O’Keeffe

Director

“I have been a director since March 2015 and the most rewarding aspect is to have been a part of the strengthening and maturing process of the wider business which has culminated in the resilient yet agile company we have in 2022. I’ve been blessed throughout my career that I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from some brilliant and inspirational people but it is without doubt that I hold the team spirit and cohesiveness at Stephenson above all my previous organisations. Everyone contributes, every opinion is heard and whatever outcome is agreed upon, it is executed by all of the team without hesitation. Darwin tells us that only the strongest survive and it is a credit to all that stewarded in the business before us that Stephenson has managed to grow and adapt through several generations of major change in our industry and that it is as well placed as it is to stride confidently into the future.”



# Mike Hacker

Regional Director

“I started with Stephenson as a shuttering carpenter in 1999 and grew with the business to become regional director of the south in October 2017. One of the most significant changes we have had to face as a company is post Brexit sourcing many key materials have become more difficult to obtain and longer lead times mean that just in time deliveries are now a thing of the past. However, we work closely with our sites to adapt to this new set of deliverables. Sustainability will play a big part in construction in the coming years and we will adapt to current trends and look to develop modern methods to remain at the forefront of construction. Being part of the team to deliver some of the largest schemes that Stephenson has delivered to date is one of the most rewarding parts of being a director. I am proud to be a part of the construction of The Tower at St George Warf in London, which at the time of construction, was the tallest reinforced concrete frame in the UK and Europe. It’s been a pleasure working alongside my fellow directors, being allowed to grow from a site-based carpenter into a regional director and into part of the history of Stephenson and I feel very privileged to be part of one of the oldest reinforced concrete frame company’s in the UK.”

# Sarah Bloom

Procurement Director

“I started at Stephenson in 2002 which would have made me 20 at the time. I started in a junior role as an assistant to our purchase ledger accounts manager. I am really lucky to have been offered so many opportunities during my time at Stephenson but my most significant achievement is becoming a director in 2019. I am proud to be part of the company that has negotiated difficult times and continued to grow despite the challenges of the last couple of years. For me, the most rewarding aspect of my role is problem solving and being able to make changes that benefit my team and the company as a whole as I have a strong desire to inspire others to progress. I am honoured to work with such a great team of knowledgeable and motivated people that have all supported my journey and taught me so much along the way. I think we all work well together to achieve shared goals.”

# Rik Vere

Commercial Director

“I first started working at Stephenson as a commercial manager at the beginning of 2011, and became commercial director for the UK in 2017, however I first met Martin in early 1997. My most significant achievement is probably a personal one, in that Stephenson sponsored me to go to Kings College London to undertake my masters degree in construction law, something I would not have been able to complete without the support of the company. There are always tough decisions that have to be made in any business and in any industry - construction is a particularly difficult industry to work in, it's confrontational by it's fractious nature and moving on with different teams on new projects, never really giving the opportunity to improve in the way say the motor industry has. However, since I started in the industry, the move towards collaborative working has definitely improved - we work closely with a few companies in the partnering frame of mind which I believe our clients welcome. I think as a team we work remarkably well together, we are a fairly close nit team, we all know what our roles are and we all get on with those roles without interference from others. I spend a lot of my time away from the office, but with modern communication, you are never more than a 'Teams' call away! I enjoy the freedom that I am given to run the department, the diversity of projects and locations that we complete, and that we all, from gateman to chairman, look to do the same thing - produce a product that we can be proud of at the end of the day.”



# Timeline of Some Projects Through the Decades



Tower Blocks, Dorking

First Contract

1962

New Scotland Yard

1967



Whitgift Centre, Croydon

1968

Chiswell Street Brewery

1976





BT Headquarters, London

1983

Woolwich Building Society HQ

1987



St. George Square, Glasgow

1990's

HMP Parc Prison, Bridgend

First PFI Prison in the UK

1996





Medbourne Park, Milton Keynes  
First Stephenson Developments Project  
February 2001

GLA Building, Tower Bridge  
London  
2002



St. George Wharf, London  
2003 - 2009

East Side Plaza, Gunwharf Quays,  
Portsmouth  
The tallest tower along the South  
coast to date  
2005





City Island, Leeds

2006

St. George Wharf Tower  
Tallest residential building in  
Europe at the time of build  
2010 - 2012



Battersea Reach, London

2004 - 2016

Awarded Gold Medal for Occupational  
Health and Safety 2015

Altus House, Leeds  
The tallest building in Yorkshire  
2020





Middlesex Street Student  
Accommodation, London  
2021

The Baird Family Hospital  
& The Anchor Centre, Aberdeen  
2021 - 2022



Hove Gardens  
Built to Rent & Commercial  
2021 - 2022

The Square, Birmingham  
Hotel and Private Residential  
2021 - 2022

