



Tony Gee News

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Celebrating 50 years of Tony Gee



Tony Gee continued to mark its 50th anniversary milestone in June by bringing together staff from the entire UK business for a memorable celebration and thank you, to those who continue to shape the business, as others have done over the past five decades.

The event, at the De Vere Beaumont Estate in Windsor, opened with a gala dinner and an inspiring address from CEO, Alasdair Fowler, reflecting on the Tony Gee legacy and the exciting future ahead. A team building activity day followed which included the creation of The Big Picture, a collective, bespoke artwork piece which grew incredibly large, with over 400 people making a contribution.

Fowler said: "It was so good to catch up with colleagues old and new, and this event emphasised to me how talented and committed our people really are. Many thanks to those in our team who organised everything, and to our event planners, Rockitfish, who did a brilliant job."

Our pioneer of tomorrow

Megan Martin, Design Engineer, has picked up two hotly-contested awards at the Young Professional Green Energy Awards, seeking 'pioneers of tomorrow'.

Martin is working on site at Slieve Kirk Wind Farm, and was awarded the Engineer Award and Professional Service Award at a ceremony in Glasgow.

The judges said: 'Megan's engineering excellence has driven savings and carbon cuts, and she continues to lead the way as a mentor shaping Scotland's renewable future'.

Mentoring win

Paul Pankhurst, Group Director and Office Lead of Tony Gee St Albans, has been awarded the Rochester Bridge Trust Phil Tindall Memorial Medal at The Worshipful Company of Engineers Awards Dinner.

Russell Race, Assistant Warden at the Trust, said: "Paul's mentoring philosophy centres around trust, communication, shared accountability, and continuous feedback. The judges were impressed by the way he balances formal mentoring with small everyday interactions that create long-term impact."

Pankhurst fosters a culture of mentoring and empowering and says: "Recognition for this should also go to all my mentees."

Tasmania celebrates new river crossing

Tasmania's largest ever transport infrastructure project successfully opened to traffic in June improving travel times, increasing safety and better connecting local communities. Tony Gee's Hong Kong office was engaged by contractor, McConnell Dowell in 2022 for the design of the River Derwent crossing at Bridgewater. The 1.3km long elevated road viaduct consists of two single cell concrete box girders and was constructed as a balanced cantilever on a substructure typically consisting of a 2.4m diameter mono-piles and 2.8m diameter piers. Nick Southward, MD of Tony Gee Australia, attended the opening ceremony and said: "It was a privilege to see the fruition of so much hard work by many parties."





View from the top

Alasdair Fowler, CEO

The fantastic celebrations for our Tony Gee @ 50 anniversary were a wonderful way to bring colleagues, past and present, together and served as a powerful reminder of the talent and dedication that defines our people.

As we head into the next 50 years, I am proud to report that this spirit has also been well recognised by our industry peers through several recent award wins which you can read all about in this issue. My heartfelt congratulations go to those individuals and teams that gained these prestigious acknowledgements both for personal professional endeavours and for their input into some truly challenging projects.

I am delighted too to see our team giving back through our continued partnership with the Bridges to Prosperity charity which does such great work supporting safer infrastructure for local communities in Rwanda.

Internally, we have now introduced a new organisational structure designed to position us for future success, and I hope this edition of Tony Gee News helps give you a sense of the momentum we're building. We have a strong project pipeline and exceptional people in place and are set to head confidently into the next 50 years. We look forward to working further with you on our ongoing journey of development.

Historic Fairbairn Crane stabilised for the future



Tony Gee has delivered a bespoke stabilisation scheme for the historic Fairbairn Crane, for the Port of Dover, to allow the removal of temporary propping and secure the structure for future generations. Originally designed by Sir William Fairbairn in the mid-19th century, the Scheduled Monument is a rare example of early box girder construction. Over time, the harsh saltwater environment had corroded the structure leading to temporary propping since 2017. To address this Tony Gee, working closely with asset owner Dover Harbour Board, Historic England, and Contractor R&B Engineering, designed a solution to install new internal steelwork connecting the crane to new concrete foundations. This preserves the crane's external appearance and ensures long-term structural integrity. Challenges overcome included extremely limited access within the crane's body. A point cloud survey was used to verify clearances for the new steelwork, further validated through a trial fit using full-scale wooden models. Detailed finite element solids modelling was required to prove the capacity of the compact steel elements. R&B Engineering achieved a high-quality installation with very difficult access, and the structure has now been fully painted and restored to its former glory. It re-opened to the public in March.

Brabazon Station design

Tony Gee has been appointed to lead the detailed design of the new Brabazon Station in Bristol, in collaboration with BAM UK and Ireland.

Located close to the Old North Filton Station, which was closed in 1964, the new station will serve the Brabazon community currently being built on the former Filton Airfield.

The new station will also provide a local transport link to the proposed 19,500-capacity YTL Arena Bristol, connecting to Bristol Temple Meads in less than 15 minutes.

Maritime heritage in focus

Tony Gee has secured a place on the £300m KBS Maritime Multi-Disciplinary Framework, supporting the delivery of critical defence infrastructure projects for HMNB Portsmouth.

This supplements work already ongoing at the Portsmouth Naval Base to protect and refurbish the heritage assets of 6 Dock and 1 Basin. The delivery of these schemes has required detailed desk studies and investigation works on the listed, 300-year-old structures; and detailed design of the remedial and upgrade works to extend the service life in a sympathetic manner. The team has welcomed the developing relationship with the KBS Maritime team and fellow suppliers.

IABSE 2025: Innovation in hybrid steel and carbon reduction

Tony Gee will be attending the IABSE Conference in Ghent this August to present two papers that reflect the company's ongoing commitment to innovation and sustainability in the structural engineering sector.

Douglas Blogg will present on the detail design for the reinstatement of the Barmouth Viaduct metallic spans.

Chris Ball will speak on hybrid steel girders for medium-span steel-concrete composite highway bridges.

The team looks forward to sharing knowledge and continuing the conversation on how engineering can lead the way in achieving net zero.



Electrification on track

Test trains have run on electrified railway between Bolton and Wigan passing under several structures with design modifications by Tony Gee. Part of a wider electrification project for the Northwest of England, the Tony Gee remit included eight bridges requiring an increase in clearance, and six bridges requiring potential parapet modification.

The designs had to be cost effective and champion the principles of minimum viable product. This meant standardising the design of similar bridge decks to produce repeatable designs, using voltage-controlled clearances, and challenging rail standards, to produce repeatable designs. This made fabrication and installation easier, establishing that parapet standards could be safely amended so only one of the original six bridges required raising, thus reducing costs.

Integrated design solutions secure success for SEGRO bridge



A new reinforced concrete box intersection bridge has been successfully installed under the four-track Midland Main Line between Radlett and St Albans.

The bridge was constructed 'offline' to the side of the railway and installed in a nine-day blockade over the Christmas 2024 period, minimising the disruption to the railway.

Tony Gee was engaged by BWB Consulting, for the contractor VolkerFitzpatrick and the end client SEGRO. The team was responsible for the design of both the permanent bridge and the temporary works associated with its installation, including the design of the jacking base used to provide geotechnical resistance during jacking,

the stability of the embankment cutting and sheet pile walls for ground level reduction adjacent to the embankment.

Tony Gee takes pride in its track record of delivering complex projects with challenging temporary works requirements. A key to success on this scheme was the seamless integration of temporary and permanent works design.

Once the new tracks are laid underneath, the bridge will allow the future rail connection of the new SEGRO Logistics Park Radlett, a road-to-rail freight terminal and distribution centre currently being constructed at the site of the former Radlett Aerodrome.

Development of the rail freight terminal will provide capacity for up to

24 trains per day



SEGRO logistics park includes:

335000m
squared of
logistics
space

243
hectares
of country
park

17km
of footpaths/
bridleways
and trails

Rail freight uses
**70-80%
less CO₂e**
than HGV equivalent



Awards recognition

This year's ICE East and West Midlands Annual Awards Dinner brought multiple successes for Tony Gee (pictured below).

Andrew Kenchington was awarded the Bob Dunn Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to civil engineering within the West Midlands over the last 35 years.

And at the other end of the career journey, Ben Merchant-Smith was awarded the Rising Star Award.

Most recently, Grand Surrey Canal Bridge, won The Rail Bridge Project of the Year at the NCE Bridges Awards. The judges felt 'the project demonstrated a highly sustainable and efficient approach, expertly minimising disruption'.

In addition, in other parts of the UK at the ACE and EIC Awards, Ewan Thomson was recognised by the judges for 'outstanding progress, dedication and commitment to his personal development, making a real impact within the business'.

Emma McGregor, Senior Engineer, won the ICE James Rennie Medal at the ICE Headquarters in London. Jacki Bell, chair of the judging panel, said: "Emma was chosen because she provided a comprehensive overview of everything that she was involved in. She also stepped outside of that and discussed James Rennie and the wider societal issues as part of her presentation. She had that broad understanding of what we were looking for and what James Rennie stood for."



Bridges to Prosperity transforms lives

Tony Gee and Knights Brown have repeated another Bridges to Prosperity collaboration on a project in Rwanda.

The 10 strong team, including five members of Tony Gee staff (India Ross, Nikhil Lad, Tara Sandiford, Thai Heng Low and Tristan Coe) was picked in December 2024 and immediately got to work fundraising through bake sales, sporting events and quizzes to raise £15,000 for the project. Through the support of family, friends and colleagues, the team reached their target at the end of May but continued to raise further funds to go directly to support the charity in the future. Once in Rwanda, the team worked with the local community of Jarama to build the Jarama Suspended Trail Bridge, removing the risks of crossing the riverbed during bad weather events.

To mark the project's completion, the community came together for a joyful morning of celebration, featuring ribbon cutting, dancing, and singing. The bridge represents more than just a structure. For the community, it will provide safer, more reliable access to schools, healthcare and economic opportunities. It is a vital connection that will transform daily life.

Developing business

Tony Gee has expanded its development and client engagement capacity with two new UK Business Development roles.

Sarah King joins as Business Development Manager for Public Sector and Frameworks, and Lotus Aherne as Business Development Manager for

Scotland. Both come from the contracting sector and bring many years experience of development and project delivery. Sarah said: "I'm thrilled to enhance our offering to local authority stakeholders. By collaborating, listening and understanding, we can influence good early decision-making and build resilient relationships."

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