



**May 2018**

### **Brick Laying Machine**

Grant van Wyk, a South African national living in Surrey, has set up Future Construct & Automation Ltd, to distribute US building automation equipment in the UK.



“We are at start-up phase and are very excited about the prospects of the products as they are the first of their kind commercially available worldwide,” he said.

The SAM 100 (Semi Automated Mason) is a bricklaying robot for onsite masonry construction, said to be capable of laying 250 to 300 bricks per hour. The machine is made New York-based Construction Robotics. It does not eliminate the mason but assists with the repetitive and strenuous task of lifting and placing each brick. The mason continues to own the site setup and final wall quality. Case studies are claimed to show savings on time and reduce the effective cost per brick laid while also improving health and safety on the job.

### **AGM and National Rally** **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018** *Hosted by South West Region*



**Leigh Park Country House Hotel & Vineyard. Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.**  
**Book asap please**

+++++++      +++++++      +++++++

### **Excavation**

A construction safety organisation has identified a spike in unsafe excavation work on UK construction sites



The Building Safety Group (BSG) has reported a 16% rise in ‘excavation work’ breaches on construction sites in the fourth quarter of 2017.



BSG's figure is based on approximately 11,000 independent inspections that it conducted for the construction industry over a six-month period, comparing Q4 with Q3 in 2017.

Injuries resulting from excavation trench collapses can often be severe and sometimes fatal.

Paul Kimpton, managing director of the Building Safety Group, said: "These types of injuries can be prevented if companies implement safe methods of working and provide the necessary information and training for workers. Excavations must be properly planned, managed and monitored, with adequate controls in place to prevent a collapse."

+++++++      ++++++++      ++++++++

### Staffordshire

Stepnell have been awarded a £5.6m contract for the construction of an events building at the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield in Staffordshire.



The events building forms the second phase of the National Memorial Arboretum's development programme and will create a permanent venue for all kinds of functions. The

2,500 sq m building will provide banqueting space, a bar, a kitchen and meeting rooms, to generate revenue for the facility.

Stepnell's contract award follows its construction of the Arboretum's Remembrance Centre, which opened to the public in October 2016, to much acclaim, picking up several architectural and construction awards.

The events building will also be the second project designed by Glen Howells Architects, who also which designed the Remembrance Centre.

Designed to complement the Remembrance Centre, the single-storey steel-framed building will feature timber cladding and extensive glazing giving views over the Arboretum grounds, which are home to around 350 memorials and 30,000 trees. The design incorporates wind catchers, an energy-efficient form of natural ventilation.

Stepnell will start work this month with the project due to be completed in summer 2018.

+++++++      ++++++++      ++++++++

Mike Bishop. FICConstM. Editor  
Governor  
01962 713000 [bishop1ue@btinternet.com](mailto:bishop1ue@btinternet.com)

