

Haven House supporter, Chigwell Construction



We chat to Dean Floyd, founder of the company, about supporting the charity and running a business in Essex



**WEL
Exclusive**

How did you hear about Haven House and what made you want to support it?

I also own Floyd and Son Funeral Directors, and they called me one day to carry out the funeral of a child. This particular child was the same age as my son at the time and it really hit me. From then on, I knew I had to support Haven House.

How you support Haven House?

Recently a child passed away and the blanket for the cold bed (which allows the body to be laid in the hospice prior to the child's funeral) had failed. The cost of a new cold blanket was £4,000, as soon as I heard it had failed, I donated the money so that a new one could be purchased immediately.

As part of Haven House's 10th birthday celebrations, I will be sponsoring its Autumn Ball on October 17th. This means that I will be picking up the bill for all the event's costs and marketing, so that all the proceeds from the ball will go straight to the hospice.

What was it like setting up your business in this area?

I actually set up my business in Snakes Lane East in 1996. I had learnt the tiling trade and decided to go out on my own.

While tiling, people would often ask me to do other jobs like hanging a door, so eventually I employed a multi-trade person and then another, and before I knew it I had my own company.

My parents were also in construction and maintenance so I found it fairly easy to start. I'm not sure I would like to start all over again, I think it's a lot harder now.

Why is the company called Chigwell Construction (the business is now based in Hainault)?

Chigwell sounds more upmarket if I'm honest

What makes Essex a good place to work?

In the mid to late 90s, almost all our work was Woodford/ Chigwell based, however we now work in almost every local authority, from Hammersmith and Fulham to Norwich and anywhere in between. We have recently secured a 5-year contract in Tower Hamlets which is special to me, as this was where I was born, and my parents before me. Although I have to say it's nice to get back to West Essex in the evening.

I gather you work on a wide variety of properties both public and private, what

projects have you worked on in West Essex that you are proud of?

Between 1996 and 2007, I built in excess of 150 properties throughout West Essex, from studio flats to 6/7 bedroom mansions in Chigwell. I'm proud to put my company's name to each and every one of them.

Most of our work is repair and maintenance contracts with local authorities and housing associations. This year we are projecting a turnover of £24m from £9m last year, so we have expended significantly and have recently extended our office space.

BIRTHDAY EVENTS



Haven House is celebrating its 10th birthday, just like West Essex Life, and is our chosen charity for the year. Chigwell Construction, along with other local

companies is sponsoring a celebrity football match on Sunday 12th May and a Birthday Ball on 17th October. To find out more contact the events team on 0208 506 3637 or events@havenhouse.org.uk