

## All the Fun of the Fair (At the Beach)



Walkergate School's 'Hook the Duck' entry

We've been helping out at the Children North East Sandcastle Competition for most of the event's 20 years and this year was no exception with our intrepid volunteers of Sam Dixon and Otis Murdoch working with the children of Walkergate School to articulate their ideas using architectural drawing methods such as scales and grids and look at techniques they could use to realise their designs.

Sam and Otis also spent the day at the beach working with the teachers to help advise the children on organising themselves to build the sandcastles. Sponsored by Galliford Try, this year's theme was The Hoppings and, although our 'Hook a Duck' project didn't win, everyone had a very good time.

## Go-Ahead for The Sill



The Sill

**The Northumberland National Park Authority agreed to proceed to the construction phase of the Sill at a special meeting on September 16.**

Main contractor, Sir Robert McAlpine, began the initial work just one week later starting with demolition of the current National Park Visitors' Centre and Youth Hostel at the site with the construction phase alone set to bring in more than 100 new jobs to the region each year.

When The Sill is fully operational from Summer 2017, it is predicted it will deliver substantial economic benefits to the region with around £5m of additional visitor spending every year.

JDDK Principal Architect Alison Thornton-Sykes commented, "The whole team are really looking forward to seeing the designs come to life over the coming months."

## Congratulations...

...to Nicky Watson, who has just started her three year term as one of the North East representatives on the 60 member RIBA Council, all of whom are elected by the RIBA members. The Council meets four times a year and is ultimately responsible for the conduct and development of the Institute, passing down detailed responsibility and technical focus to the RIBA Board and main committees. As part of her role Nicky will also sit on the RIBA Communications Committee.

Nicky commented, "It is an honour and places the practice right at the heart of the profession where we are part of the very latest discussions and can play our part in representing the region."

## People's Passions Tristan Cooper and Budapest

Apart from the Gorge Ezra song, most people don't know much about the capital of Hungary but my family have been going for years and finally took the plunge to buy an apartment there in 2013.

It's a beautiful city of around 2m people dissected by the mighty Danube (and yes, it is blue and it is very wide) with Buda, the old city, on one side and the more prosperous Pest on the other. There's several bridges of course but the most famous is the Chain Bridge which was opened in 1849 and modelled on the smaller Marlow Bridge across the Thames and built by the same English engineer, William Clark, and then rebuilt in 1949 after being severely damaged in the war.

It has a fascinating history, it's a World Heritage site, centred on the famous Castle which is incredibly impressive, Gellert Hill is a great walk in the middle of the city, the Parliament building is magnificent, it has a superb public transport system (about £10.00 a week for unlimited travel), a wonderful water park on Margaret Island right in the middle of the river, and the cost of living is really cheap with beer about £1.00 a pint!

At the moment you can fly from Glasgow or Leeds, but hopefully flights will start from Newcastle soon - take my advice and go and have a look!



Tristan Cooper in front of the Chain Bridge



Sue Ryder, Thorpe Hall Hospice in Peterborough

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# State-of-the-art Veterinary Hospital Opens at Sedgfield



The new veterinary hospital sits comfortably in the surrounding rural environment.

In June, Wear Referrals opened their new veterinary referral and emergency hospital at Bradbury, outside Sedgfield - a Centre of Excellence equipped with the very latest state-of-the-art facilities for specialist animal care. With MRI and CT scanners, four operating theatres, a chemotherapy and rehabilitation ward, dedicated intensive care unit and staff training facilities, the hospital is purposefully situated close to the A1's J60 motorway junction to allow rapid and easy access for all referred clients and emergencies from long and short range.

The high tech building sits discretely in the surrounding rural environment featuring a sedum roof to one wing, biomass heating and photovoltaic panels for green energy and an integrated landscaping scheme to minimise the building's impact on the surrounding landscape.

The location is a very prominent site on brown field land adjacent to both the A689 and the A1 and close to the main East Coast rail line so will therefore be seen by very many people as they pass by. Our client, Dr Gerard te Lintelo, Veterinary

Surgeon and Clinical Director of Wear Referrals, is very design and sustainability conscious, and so it has been a very fulfilling collaboration all round.

The building has been designed to sit sensitively within the existing landscape but at the same time be a subtle but strong architectural statement when seen either at speed from the road and rail line or at close range. The internal layout is purposefully configured around the flow of veterinary work with the reception area, for example, in the south-facing wing providing comforting, bright and airy front-of-house facilities for anxious pet owners whilst the northern wing provides the highly serviced operating theatres, x-ray and chemotherapy facilities. The central two storey section contains core clinical support functions with offices and staff welfare accommodation on the first floor, taking advantage of the fine outlook over the surrounding landscape.

Externally, the low profile curved roofs, some sedum covered, reflect the gently undulating landscape whilst the fragmented building mass reduces the visual scale. This, together with integrated landscaping and the use of facing materials which are in harmony with the setting, allows the new 1,600 sq m structure to have a very low profile from afar, although highly impressive at close quarters.

Dr Gerard te Lintelo, Veterinary Surgeon and Clinical Director of Wear Referrals, commented:

*“We’re absolutely delighted to have moved into this new centre, now the leading veterinary facility in the North of England, which has allowed us to further expand our referral services and thus provide a better service to referring vets from not only the North East but also all areas from Liverpool to Edinburgh.”*



Bright and airy front-of-house facilities for anxious pet owners.



Wear Referrals's new state-of-the-art veterinary hospital at Bradbury outside Sedgfield.



Gentoo's scheme proposes 404 homes at Prudhoe.

## Planning Approval for New Homes at Prudhoe

In May, we were successful in our planning application for Gentoo to Northumberland County Council for an ambitious redevelopment of 404 homes to be built on the 100 acre site of the former Prudhoe Hospital.

The £92 million pound scheme comprises of 392 new build properties ranging from two bedroom apartments to six bedroom detached executive homes, and 12 homes from the conversion of the historic Grade II listed Prudhoe Hall and adjacent stables.

With existing woodland surrounding the site to the north and southeast, the 100 acre site consists largely of the original designed landscape and parkland to the north and west of the Grade II listed Prudhoe Hall which was originally constructed around 1870 for the Liddell family before being acquired for use as Prudhoe Hospital.

JDDK Director, Nicky Watson, commented:

*“The scheme is a solution to a challenging brief which required us to design a high quality housing development in a manner that did not affect the openness of the Green Belt and that respected the setting of the historic buildings. The layout has been carefully designed to respond to the existing site topography and the historic landscape whilst retaining existing vistas, public rights of way and wildlife corridors across the site.”*

## Planning Success For The Northumberland Estates



The new development sits comfortably in the existing village environment.

We have worked with The Northumberland Estates since 1999, some 59 separate projects over 16 years, 35 of which reached planning stage or beyond with the remainder being earlier design stage work.

The schemes have varied from the first commission from Northumberland Estates, Pottergate at Alnwick, which went on to win the 2003 Conservation Award from the Alnwick Civic Society, the 2004 Residential Development Category in the Journal Landmark Awards and a commendation in the 2005 Civic Trust Awards, to one of our latest schemes, North Farm Steading at Rennington.

The North Farm scheme, for which Planning Permission was granted earlier this year, proposes the conversion of the Grade II listed cartshed/granary and the construction of 13 additional two, three and four bedroom houses, five of which will be affordable homes for rent by local residents, including two bungalows.

Our design proposal for the conversion and the new-build site responded strongly to the need to enhance and protect the heritage significance and setting of the listed buildings on the site whilst providing them with a sustainable use to ensure their retention as a heritage asset. The existing modern farm buildings on the site had been detrimental to the setting of the heritage buildings and so by proposing their demolition and designing a site layout that set the new buildings away from the listed structures, their setting was improved and the new development echoed the grain of the existing village housing.

Two dwellings were created within the cartshed and granary, partly accommodated in a distinctly modern new build extension that takes influence from the simple, functional, non-decorative structures of the modern barns on the site and sits subservient in scale to the historic structures.

Barry Spall, Development Planner for Northumberland Estates, commented:

*“Northumberland Estates has used JDDK's services for the past 15 years - they always deliver consistently high quality, professional and fit for purpose proposals on any development opportunity that is presented to them. Projects range from highly constrained heritage asset buildings and sites to large scale greenfield housing sites. Importantly though, the JDDK approach to working life is evident every time in the form of a friendly and fun attitude. This is why we love working with JDDK and why they are always first on our list for choice of Architect!”*

**STOP PRESS** - The Vet Hospital has been shortlisted for County Durham Environment Award, to be decided on November 24.

# Making Dreams Come True at Thorpe Hall

On September 8th, the second phase of our work for Sue Ryder at the Grade I listed Thorpe Hall at Peterborough was officially opened by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester.

The £6m development of a 20 bed ward is set in the old kitchen garden of the Grade I Listed country house - one the finest buildings in the east of England - which was constructed between 1653 and 1656 for the Commonwealth's Lord Chief Justice, Oliver St John, and itself set within a Grade II Listed Landscape, giving both historical and architectural uniqueness. The Hall had previously been used as a maternity hospital, and the charity purchased the property in 1986 to provide care for people with active, progressive illness including complex neurological conditions.

The sensitive setting required the JDDK team of Ian Clarke and Adam Vaughn to begin extensive discussions with English Heritage and Peterborough City Council in 2010 which culminated in the successful planning application of 2011. The design proposals were deliberately low impact in response to the sensitive historic setting and proposed a single storey timber framed structure containing 20 ground floor rooms with en-suite facilities and individual patio doors opening onto the garden areas. This contemporary and low impact structure also featured a full sedum roof to merge in with the gardens when viewed from the adjacent Hall, timber clad walls, high levels of thermal insulation together with use of ground source heat pump and was fabricated off-site to minimise disruption to the normal running of the hospice.

This has been one of the most challenging projects that the practice has undertaken and, tragically, one of the final pieces of work undertaken by Ian Clarke.



Duchess of Gloucester opening the new building



Hospice Director, Jane Petit, commented:

*“ From the moment anyone comes into the new building, the changes the environment has helped to deliver are palpable. The building has enabled changes in ways of working for staff and volunteers from the drug storage in the patient rooms allowing for more immediate access to medication for patients, having handovers between shifts with the patients in their room and the catering team serving meals directly from the hot trolley in the Atrium rather than pre-plating in the kitchen.”*

*“ Over 2,500 people came to view the building prior to the opening and commented on the level of detail, feeling of space and light and being over awed by the access to the gardens and the melding together of old and new. We now have an environment that supports the incredible care we provide and that is designed to work with us for the benefit of the patients and their families.”*

Opening the new building, the Duchess of Gloucester praised the whole team for making the state of the art facility a reality. She commented:

*“ I was sold on the design that so cleverly fitted into the walled garden with an opening from every room into a bit of the garden be it summer or winter or any season but with beautiful planting, and the ability to go out, even in your bed if you so wish. I think many a dream has come true thanks to the enormously hard work of the whole team here at Thorpe Hall.”*

## First Residents into Adler Close



Adler Housing's development of family homes in Bensham

The first residents have now moved into Adler Housing's new development in Bensham. Our brief for the development was for large but affordable family homes which would not only meet the requirements of the HCA and local Planning Authority, but also support the specific cultural requirements of local community residents, which includes an established Jewish community.

The resultant design is for 12, three storey, five bedroom homes on a compact brownfield site, designed specifically to meet the requirements of the residents, with the size of the homes a response to the traditionally large Jewish family unit, just one of the specific needs of the residents.

JDDK Director and project architect, Nicky Watson explained, "Each of the new houses includes a particular requirement to incorporate a Sukka, a room with an opening roof to enable members of the household to eat, sleep and generally reside in the open air for eight nights each year, during the Sukkot festival."

"Similarly, the design allows the dining and living rooms to be opened up and amalgamated for family gatherings but with retractable folding doors which can separate them for individual uses at other times. The dining room is particularly important for the traditional study of the Torah and associated texts and therefore needed space for extensive shelving for books and high levels of natural and artificial lighting. Whilst in the kitchen, the designs have to accommodate the requirement to prepare and cook meat and dairy products separately, as well as provide the potential for tenants to install a separate smaller kitchen area for use only during Passover."

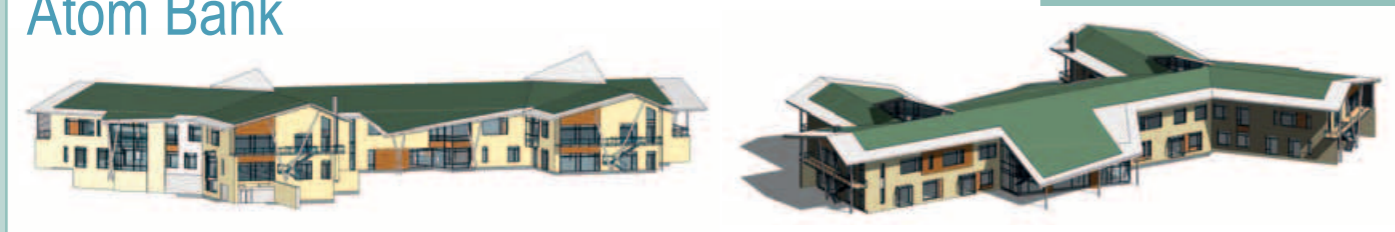
"A household of nine people generates an awful lot of clothes and linen washing and it was a particular wish of the families we met during community consultation that the washing machine and tumble drier be on the first floor, accessible from the landing, in actual fact a common location for laundry facilities in European homes."

Eli Halberstadt, Chairman of Adler Housing, commented:

*"Our tenants have been effusive in their praise of the design of the full scheme and of the home layouts - in particular the creative and effective use of space, for both living and storage areas. Notably the Sukka at ground floor level doubling as conventional living space throughout the year, is a most effective design solution that combines everyday practicality with a bespoke facility that meets a particular seasonal cultural requirement in a skilful and aesthetically pleasing way."*

## Atom Bank

The new headquarters of Atom Bank



In October we received Planning Permission on behalf of Rivergreen Developments for a 4,242 sqm commercial office building to be constructed over three storeys at Aykley Heads, Durham City, as headquarters for the new Atom Bank, the UK's first wholly digital bank.

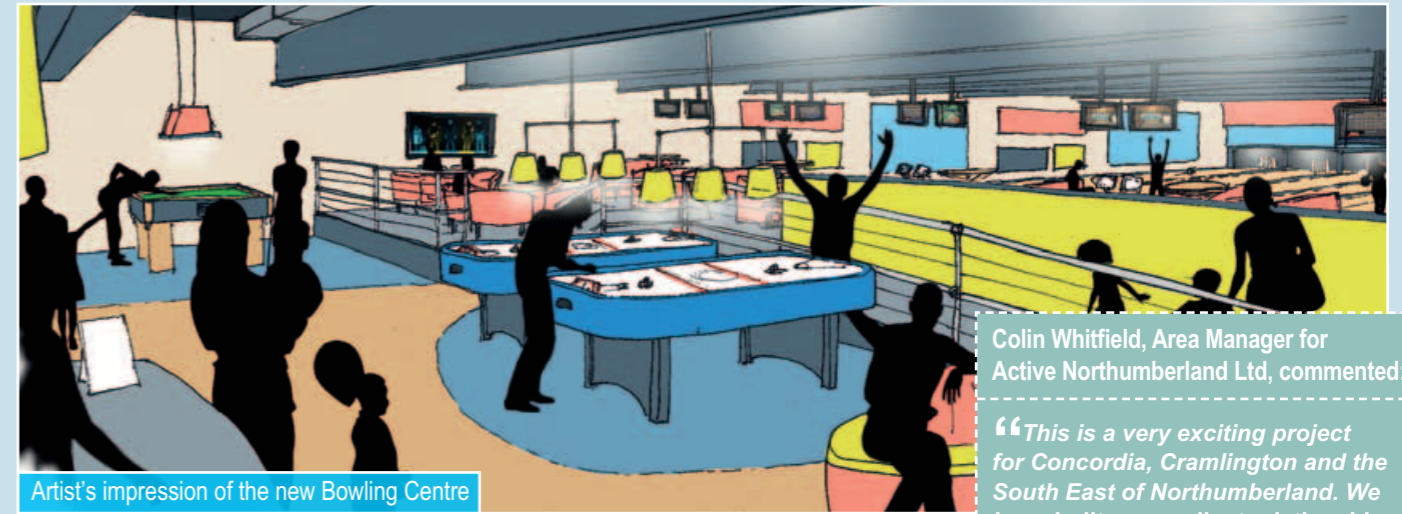
The high quality, BREEAM outstanding, open plan office environment is designed to promote collaborative working and flexibility for future use whilst still providing characterful accommodation for

employees working there. The building's design is oriented to offer views to the east and west through the gable ends which maximise daylight into the office space whilst the U shape design with two areas of open plan offices on each floor split by a central core containing support services. A 375 sq m basement area contains a gym, delivery area, plant room and vault.

JDDK Director, Kevin Turnbull, commented, "The brief was for a highly sustainable and flexible office

building on the Aykley Heads Estate which already has a variety of office accommodation, including our own Rivergreen Centre, designed in 2007. The site itself slopes slightly from North to South which we were able to use to reduce the massing of the building and to incorporate an accessible basement level. The design also retains as many of the existing trees as possible and uses them to not only provide shading but also to screen the building and blur the boundaries between the existing context and building structure."

## Concordia Leisure Centre Refurbishment



Artist's impression of the new Bowling Centre

Robertson Construction, main contractors for the refurbishment of Cramlington's Concordia Leisure Centre, are now on site as part of a £3.3 million development by Active Northumberland and Northumberland County Council. The design team, led by ourselves, includes Screen and Forster for the Mechanical and Electrical Services design, Anthony Davies Associates for Structural Engineering, and Rider Hunt providing Cost Consultancy and Procurement support.

The scheme aims to improve the offering at the leisure centre, thereby encouraging new family activities into the town centre and securing financial sustainability for the future. The brief required the building to remain operational during the refurbishment, and so the work has been divided into three phases to minimise disruption to users of the centre as well the general public.

Phase one began early in September, updating current facilities to maximise the use of existing space, including upgrade and extension of the current gym facilities and introduction of a state-of-the-art Clip 'n Climb facility and soft play area.

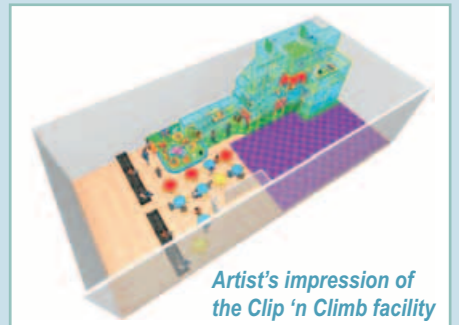
The project will embrace the demand for family entertainment with the installation of a 10-pin Bowling Centre as part of Phase Two of the works starting in November, which include a new spa facility and updated dry changing areas. Phase Two will also see the introduction of a unique dedicated spinning room complete with audio-visual fit-out to immerse customers in a 'virtual reality' experience.

The final phase of the project will incorporate the relocation of Cramlington's library from the adjacent building, and new onsite catering facilities being moved to the lower floor to make room for a Multi-purpose Fitness Studio for fitness classes and other functions.

JDDK Project Architect, Clair Sanders, commented, "The work has to be done extremely carefully as the Centre is open to the public at the same time as the refurbishment work is being carried out, but the end result will create an exciting new focal point of activities in the town centre and we hope to have the whole project completed by next Summer."

Colin Whitfield, Area Manager for Active Northumberland Ltd, commented:

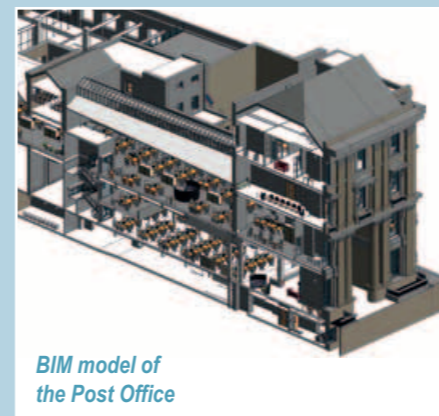
*"This is a very exciting project for Concordia, Cramlington and the South East of Northumberland. We have built an excellent relationship with the design team and JDDK have been pivotal in turning our brief and aspirations into reality. Many obstacles have been faced during the project, and I am sure there will be more to come, but JDDK have designed options to navigate past these issues. At all times they have communicated with us to make sure we receive what we desire and nothing has been too much trouble."*



Artist's impression of the Clip 'n Climb facility

## Post Office Redevelopment

In August last year, we were delighted to have been chosen from a shortlist of six firms by RIBA Enterprises (RIBAE) to undertake the refurbishment and expansion of their offices in the former General Post Office in the centre of Newcastle.



BIM model of the Post Office

Since then we have undertaken a major consultation exercise with everyone involved in using the building and are currently awaiting the return of tenders from builders before awarding the contract.

The scheme, designed entirely on Revit to create a Building Information Model which can form the basis of any further design work, seeks to consolidate the entire office space of the Grade II listed building which had been subdivided into during the 1990's.

RIBAE are looking for exemplary office space for their 180 employees, creating a motivational environment which is also at the forefront of the new digital economy. Each area of the building has therefore been addressed ranging from the small alterations to the Basement Level, now to be used as gym spaces, to linking works on the First floor level and alterations on the Ground and Mezzanine levels to open views into and through the former Sorting Office.



The famous East elevation of the Post Office

JDDK Associate and Project Architect Adam Vaughn commented, "It's a fascinating project which involves taking a listed historical building and altering the internal spaces so that it is more suitable for modern use, whilst retaining the external fabric wherever possible. It's also a very high profile contract which will be minutely examined by its end users, many of whom are fellow architects."