

# Ski Thursday

The Hahnenkamm it wasn't but nearby Cow Hill provided the nearest a band of intrepid JDDK winter sport enthusiasts could find in January. Taking advantage of record snow falls, we decided there was too much fun to be had and decamped one Thursday afternoon to test some cutting edge design sledges and boards, OK, RIBA signboards and tea trays actually. The results are actually available on a DVD for those winter sports purists who hark back to the Corinthian days of amateurism!



Matt Holmes, Joe Crinion, Adam Vaughan and Stuart Franklin

## THANK YOU



...to everyone that has helped Stuart Franklin and Nicky Hodgson raise over £6,250, a sum that exceeds the £4,500 needed for their Transylvanian Challenge in aid of St Oswald's Hospice. The generous companies include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Abacus Building Components   | JDDK employees for raffle tickets and pennies jar donations |
| Armstrong Rhead  | Jesmond Dene House  |
| Assa Abloy   | Kevin Turnbull's Curry Night                                |
| Athena's Child   | Kettle Chips  |
| BDN Northern   | Laidlaw   |
| Blockleys  | Newcastle Labour Club                                       |
| Boots  | Northumbria Army Cadet Force                                |
| Brick Services   | Pictogram   |
| Cableflow  | Polar NE  |
| Countless Individual donations on <a href="http://www.justgiving.com/nickyhodgson">www.justgiving.com/nickyhodgson</a> | RI Construction   |
| Direct Blinds  | Sainsbury   |
| Frank Haslam Millan  | Sine Consulting   |
| Hacel Lighting   | St Oswald's Hospice Treatment Centre (for pamper night)     |
| Hanson   | Todd Milburn  |
| IBStock  | Walter Thompson   |
| Ideal Standard   | Wienberger  |
| JDDK (enormous thanks!)  |   |

## DID YOU KNOW?...

...80% of our staff have been at JDDK for more than 5 years and 60% for more than 10 years... and that in the last 6 months we have appointed 2 new members of staff

## People's Passions Romanda Feels The Force!

With her father as an ex Army PTI, a military hobby was always on the cards for Directors' PA, Romanda Jobson, but what was perhaps not expected was an environment leading to romance and marriage!

Romanda joined the Northumbria Army Cadet Force in August 1990 as a Sergeant Instructor, partly through her sister's guidance, herself a Cadet.

The Army Cadet Force celebrates its 150th anniversary this year (big parades in June in Eldon Square...) as Britain's oldest youth organisation with now over 40,000 cadets nationwide, as Romanda explains her involvement, "Firstly, it's NOT part of the Army as everyone seems to think, although a lot of our cadets do go on into the Army, it's a youth training organisation that teaches general extra-curricular skills as well as military ones to teenagers."

Romanda is currently based two nights a week at Fenham Barracks as an Administration Sergeant where she helps run the paperwork for her Company Headquarters (7 detachments within her Company) and also spends four weekends a year at Otterburn and a further fortnight at the annual Camp - so where's the romance?

"I met my husband, Kevin, a captain in the Cadets, through the Force, in fact we were virtually put together by the kids on a blind date!"

"I do love the job as it's very rewarding seeing these 12 to 18 year old kids, often from troubled backgrounds, develop in self confidence and self discipline into really responsible young adults. I suppose I'm looked on as a kind of second Mum by many of them but it's great fun and I'm very lucky to be involved."



Sgt Jobson



St Andrews United Reformed Church in Monkseaton



Celebrating our architecture & people over the past 23 years

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# A little goes a long way at St Andrew's Church



The new entrance to St Andrew's United Reformed Church at Monkseaton.

Derek Stembridge, Treasurer of the Development Committee, commented:

*“The new entrance is absolutely stunning but only hints at the interior where the Church Hall has been totally transformed to create a superb facility for the local community. The entrance leads into a light filled reception area with servery and then into the Hall with a new toilet block complete with disabled access facilities. In addition, new lighting, flooring and decoration has transformed the whole building.”*



In construction, as in many other sectors, the saying of “a little goes a long way” is unfortunately not generally true - capital projects tend to reflect the level of investment in them. However, when a relatively modest investment is coupled with great design, the results can be spectacularly successful.

In 2001, the congregation of St Andrews United Reformed Church in Monkseaton, set up a Development Committee to investigate the feasibility of improving the accessibility and toilet provision for their heavily used Church Hall adjacent to the Church. Built in 1939, the Church itself was also in need of some investment for new lighting and the then Minister, Gordon Connacher, turned to ourselves for initial designs after being impressed by our work at St Oswald's Hospice in Gosforth.

JDDK Director and Project Architect, Ian Clarke, explained the challenge, “The Church and Church Hall were connected by a utilitarian link block which had created a little used courtyard to the front of the buildings, yet the Hall itself was very heavily used together with its limited toilet and kitchen facilities. The design required a way to tie the two buildings together, creating additional interior space, improving accessibility and facilities, and providing a central point of welcome. The new work had to be visibly sympathetic to the existing architecture and respond to the human scale and character of the surrounding suburban houses in this packed residential Conservation Area. We had an unknown but limited budget, which would depend on fund raising for the whole project.”

Some seven years later, the results of the congregation's fund raising work, which has raised £600,000 in the intervening period, the architects' designs and the construction work by DP Builders of Amble were officially opened in a celebration weekend by Rowena Francis, Moderator of the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church.

The development has created an entirely new entrance to the Church Hall which compliments and reinforces the existing architecture whilst answering the brief of refurbishing and improving the building., as Derek Stembridge, Treasurer of the Development Committee, commented, “The project had begun by looking at improving access to the Hall, but it became apparent that with over 1,000 people using the facility a week, including over 400 children, there was a real need to improve the building and we began to think of something on a grander scale!”

“Our main concern over the construction has been to be to minimise any disruption to the local community as the streets are very narrow around the Church and the builders have been very good here, particularly the Site Manager, David Curtis, with the result that there hasn't been a single complaint. The overall objective was to support the local community and we now have a superb facility in which all are welcome as we build for the future.”

# A Visit to the Dentists

Our project creating the new Kingswalk Dental Implant Practice opened in January after the fast track, listed building, project was successfully completed on time and within budget.

The £370,000 development undertaken by Northallerton-based contractors Walter Thompson Ltd. saw the conversion of a Grade II listed Georgian terraced property on Leazes Park Road in the centre of Newcastle from an office to a highly serviced dental surgery for the Kingswalk Practice who were relocating from their premises on the edge of the University campus. With a client base consisting of numerous University staff and students, the practice were obviously keen to remain in the immediate area.

The project, however, was not without challenges for JDDK primarily due to the delicacy and ingenuity that was required to design the necessary alterations in a manner that met the exacting requirements of the planning and conservation

officers in the local authority. At the outset of the project there was concern from the planners as they feared that the construction work required, such as strengthening of the floor boards in each surgery to take the weight of the equipment and the distribution of services would alter the very fabric of the listed building. We worked hard to develop technical solutions that protected the historic building and its important original features while still meeting our client's requirements and as a result our planning and listed building submissions contained virtually working drawings to show how the conversion could be carried out in an acceptable manner.

The end result is a four storey Georgian terraced property which contains three fully equipped hi-tech surgeries which surpass the latest statutory requirements for dental surgeries, a central sterilising room, staff area and ground floor reception, waiting area and offices.



Kingswalk Dental Implant Practice, Leazes Park Road



Practice Manager, Catherine Joy, commented:

*“Our previous site was no longer suitable once the University began to expand and it was very important for us to remain in the City Centre so we jumped at the chance of this building. Once JDDK had satisfied the planners' concerns, the project actually went very smoothly despite the complexity of the services as each surgery required X-ray shielding, compressed air, gas and water services.”*

*“It was a complicated project, from strengthening floors to installing the air compressors in the basement but we now have one of the most modern set of dental surgeries which exceeds all current standards and we're delighted with the new building.”*

# Dwelling (n): A place to live in, an abode, a residence



**Discus Bungalows:** a successful scheme which re-houses older residents in new build bungalows integrated with larger family homes to create a new community in the heart of York.



**Doxford Park Phase 1:** each housing scheme is designed with distinctive character to suit the location.

*The design, construction and relationships of dwellings to each other and their immediate environment has been of prime importance to architects from the very earliest days of construction. Whilst individual homes tell us something about the character of the occupants, the way we arrange groups of dwellings tells us a great deal about the nature of our society.*

As a practice, we have spent the last 22 years working with a range of clients from individual home owners to large RSL's committed to large scale regeneration projects and our experience is not just in the delivery of homes tailored to particular clients' needs, but in understanding the nature of our urban and rural landscape.

For example, British villages have a long tradition of arranging houses around village greens which act as a hub for community life, for annual festivals, for daily walks and for gossip and gathering. At a number of schemes, we have therefore located the individual dwellings around spaces which form the heart of the community, whether these be open spaces or links to other areas, inspired by the layout of nearby traditional villages.

The loss of countryside to urban sprawl has led to the intentional development of denser urban infills to brownfield land over the past 10 years. This pressure to live in close proximity to your neighbour had the potential to threaten the quality of life for the next generation. In response, a string of design guidelines have been published by various organisations to set high standards for the quality of the developments, from 'By Design' first published in 2000, through to the more recent 'Building for

Life', "Lifetime Homes" and the Homes and Communities Agency's Housing Quality Indicators. In recent years our experienced design and technical staff have been working successfully within these guidelines creating well crafted, high quality environments for new and existing communities to grow and flourish. These housing schemes have varied from large scale redevelopments of existing estates to smaller scale supported housing projects for vulnerable young people or those with learning disabilities.

The practice's experience and successes has been recognised by our Directors holding additional positions in the field of regeneration and the management/recognition of design quality such as an RIBA Client Design Advisor, Design Review Panel member, RIBA Award Assessors, Civic Trust Assessors and a CABE Enabler. In addition, we have an in-house Code for Sustainable Homes assessor, adding that all important sustainable backup to all of our housing projects.

Our schemes create a specific character to the housing that suits the particular rural, urban or sub-urban setting, provides good quality public realm, meets the needs of the local residents with a mix of dwelling type and tenure and creates a successful portfolio of houses for the developer.



**Doxford Park Phase 2:** flats for rent and houses for sale demonstrating that high quality design is independent of tenure.



**The Wynd, Amble:** award winning bespoke housing which achieved EcoHomes Excellent rating.



**Your Homes Newcastle's Fossway Scheme:** provides supported accommodation for people with learning disabilities in 12 apartments and five bungalows.



**Northumberland Village:** won an RIBA National Housing Design Award in 1991 for its characterful design and is still a popular place to live.

**Martin Hawthorne, Fabrick Group Director of Regeneration & Development commented:**

*"JDDK's designs are fresh and innovative but also meet the local vernacular and create a lovely sense of place within the context of their environment. Their homes in Newton Aycliffe really lift the place yet do not look at all out of place."*

*"I find the staff very professional and a pleasure to work with. The drawings are accurate and timely and they have helped us on a number of occasions to produce first rate competition drawings as well as excellent quality technical drawings."*

*"We build both housing for sale and housing for rent which presents the designer some particular challenges. The housing for rent has to be very specific in terms of the standards we and the Government expect whilst the housing for sale has to follow more market orientated principles and be attractive to house buyers. This difficult balance is met convincingly through JDDK."*

## A SELECTION OF HOUSING PROJECTS

- 1987 Collingwood Court, Morpeth, Yuill Ltd
- 1988 Park View Court, North Kenton, Newcastle North British Housing Association
- 1989 Blue Bell Dene, Newbiggin Hall, Newcastle North British Housing Association
- 1991 South Meadowell Estate, Cheviot Housing
- 1992 Falstone Walk, Newcastle, Wimpey Homes
- 1992 Cheshire Home, Crook, Leonard Cheshire Foundation
- 1992 Lumley Walk, Dunston, Two Castles Housing Association
- 1992 Northumberland Village Homes, Monkseaton Wimpey Homes & North Tyneside Council
- 1993 Cowgate Estate, Newcastle, North British Housing Association
- 1994 Aykley Heads Farm, Durham, Rivergreen Developments
- 1997 East Howard Street, North Shields, E5 Housing Association & Wimpey Homes
- 1998 Thomas Hawksley Park, Sunderland, Rivergreen Developments
- 1998 Abbey View, Blanchland, Cheviot Housing
- 1999 Norton Hall & Wilton Castle, Wimpey Homes
- 2000 Grange Farm, Shincliffe, Rivergreen Developments
- 2000 The Leas, Monkseaton, Barratt Homes
- 2000 Winterton Hospital Site, Leech Homes
- 2000 Preston Grange & Great Ayton, Wimpey Homes
- 2001 Former Royal Infirmary, Chester, Bryant Homes
- 2001 Internal Modifications, Sunderland Housing Group
- 2001 Wylam Manor, Wylam, Wimpey Homes
- 2001 Lesbury House, Northumberland Estate & Bellway Homes
- 2002 The Bars, Chester, Wimpey Homes
- 2002 The Chains, Corbridge, Northumberland Estate & Charles Church
- 2002 The Cloisters, Ashbrooke, Barratt Homes
- 2003 Pottergate, Alnwick, The Northumberland Estates & Rivergreen Developments
- 2003 Lanesbrough Court, Newcastle, Yuill Group
- 2003 Cleadon Pumping Station, Rivergreen Developments
- 2004 Lambton Cokeworks Masterplan, One North East
- 2004 Stamford Brook Masterplan, Altrincham, Redrow Homes & Taylor Woodrow
- 2005 West Sunnyside, Sunderland, Gentoo Ventures
- 2005 Hamsterley Hall, Barratt Homes\*
- 2006 Grasmere Village, Cumbria, Great Cross Trust
- 2006 Doxford Park Masterplan and Redevelopment, Sunderland Gentoo Homes\*
- 2006 Bowesfield Lane, Tees Valley
- 2006 153 Main Street, Northumberland, Northside Management
- 2007 The Wynd, Amble, Rivergreen Developments
- 2007 Beadnell House, Northumberland, Northside Management
- 2008 Discus Bungalows, York, Tees Valley Housing\*
- 2008 Former Stannington Hospital site, Bellway Homes\*
- 2008 Blayberry and Blaymoor, Redcar, Frank Haslam Milan
- 2008 Hawkshead Place, Newton Aycliffe, Tees Valley Housing
- 2009 Beaumont, Southdale Homes\*
- 2009 5 Residential Schemes in South Tyneside Frank Haslam Milan & Your Homes Newcastle\*
- 2009 The Fossway & Star Centre in Newcastle, Frank Haslam Milan\*
- 2010 Springfield House, Gosforth\*
- 2010 The Dovecote, Corbridge\*

**Stannington Hospital:** a complex scheme which creates a new village within a sensitive rural setting in Northumberland.



\*Denotes ongoing project

# Hospice Update



The Glasgow Marie Curie Hospice

Whilst many construction sectors have certainly been adversely affected by the economic climate, our workload with hospices has continued and even grown over the last years with good progress on several projects.

In January, the new £16m Marie Curie Hospice in Glasgow opened its doors to patients for the first time, replacing the existing hospice which was built in the 1970's. Built on a steeply sloping site within the campus of Stobhill Hospital on the north east edge of Glasgow, the hospice provides space for thirty in-patients, a day hospice and outpatients suite, training and education spaces for health professionals, a regional base for staff working in the community, and all the supporting accommodation.

At our first visit several years ago, the site appeared daunting, but with the great advantage of wonderful views of the Campsie Fells from the upper parts of its slope - hence the reason the bedrooms are located here to give the bedrooms and patient terraces a wonderful view.

The building is split over three different floor levels, with the advantage that each level has garden access because of the slope. At the lowest level, the Day Hospice is close to the main entrance and with a sheltered south facing

garden terrace forming a sun trap, to make the best of a Scottish summer. We hope to have a full feature on the hospice in the Autumn issue of Millmount News.

Design work continues on the West Midlands Marie Curie Hospice, after planning permission was received in late 2009. Whilst without the challenge of a steeply sloping site, the greenbelt location of this project on the south western edge of the Birmingham conurbation has meant that visual and ecological sensitivity have played particularly important parts in this project. Collaboration with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has been extensive, and our wildlife garden over which the patient bedrooms will look will include webcams so that patients can have a close-up of the action in the garden!

In Edinburgh, the "Buy a Brick" fundraising appeal for the St Columba's Hospice project, ([www.bluedove.org.uk](http://www.bluedove.org.uk)), which received planning permission last year with support from Historic Scotland - the site includes important Listed Buildings and is located in the Trinity Conservation Area.

In Cork, Ireland, our contractors, BAM, are proceeding at pace with the new Curraheen hospital which is scheduled for completion around the end of the year.



St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh



West Midlands Marie Curie Hospice



Curraheen Hospice in Cork

# New Director for JDDK

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mura Mullan as a Director of the practice, Appointed an Associate of the practice in 2003, Mura was born in Derry but now lives in Benton, Newcastle. A graduate with distinctions from the University of Manchester in 1994 she has been with JDDK for some ten years, having worked previously for several large national practices.

Since joining JDDK, Mura has worked on several high profile projects including the award-winning Phase II of St Gemma's Hospice in Leeds, the conversion of a former Methodist church into the headquarters of the Northern Rock Foundation in Gosforth, Newcastle, the Marie Curie Hospice in Glasgow, the Sacred Heart Children's Centre in Fenham and work for the Irish Hospice Foundation.

Mura commented, "I was originally attracted to JDDK by the wide mix of both new build and conversion work across a wide variety of sectors and the challenge of bringing old buildings back into use. More recently, I've been working very closely with Ian Clarke, specialising in health care, particularly hospice projects with the soon-to-be-opened Marie Curie Hospice in Glasgow taking up a large part of the past four years!"

"There's a fairly unique atmosphere at JDDK and I'm obviously delighted to become a Director of such a prestigious practice."



Mura Mullan, JDDK Director

# Brunswick Park Centre Completes



The internal design has created both practical and interesting spaces.

The latest in our series of SureStart/Community Centres, the £735,000 Brunswick Park Centre was successfully handed over by contractors NCS Build to our client, Newcastle City Council, in early January.

Similar in design to the earlier Grange Centre in Gosforth, the single storey building provides a shining example of how good design matched to traditional construction techniques can produce buildings which are both a cost-effective and architecturally interesting solution to the client's brief.

Constructed in traditional load-bearing block and brickwork with partial timber cladding, the internal design has created both practical and interesting spaces with two large 'L' shaped meeting rooms separated by a removable screen, a large kitchen which can be used for training purposes, front office and toilets. To the side of the building are two changing rooms and showers with separate access from the football fields within the park. Solar panels on the pitched roof provide partial hot water for the building and showers.

*Project Architect, Helen Fairmaner, commented:*

*"The fact that the Centre is to be used by such a wide variety of community groups presented a few challenges which we partly overcame by providing extensive storage space so that each group can securely store their own equipment when not in use."*

*"The requirements of a youth group or a group of older people are very different from the Mother & Toddler groups, for example, so our brief was to create an easily built mixed use facility which appealed to a wide range of user groups."*

