

MILLMOUNT NEWS AUTUMN 2018



RSPB SHERWOOD FOREST VISITOR CENTRE

RUTHERFORD CANCER CENTRE NORTH EAST WELCOMES FIRST PATIENTS



The Rutherford Cancer Centre North East

Construction and internal fit-out at the Rutherford Cancer Centre North East at Bomarsund in Northumberland completed in time for treating its first patients in September.

Our design for the centre is just the second of its kind in the UK by Proton Partners International and open to both referred NHS and private patients. The facility offers the new high energy proton beam therapy which treats cancerous growths with sub-millimeter precision, thereby minimising damage to adjacent tissue. The centre also offers Linacs, CT (Computed Tomography) and MRI scanning in addition to radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment facilities.

JDDK Director, Mura Mullan, explained the design of the two storey building which includes huge concrete-lined underground vaults to house the Cyclotron which produces the proton beam used in the innovative technology. She said, "The design of the

Rutherford Cancer Centre North East puts the patient at the heart of the process and is essentially based on optimizing the journey that the patients make within it at a time of illness and stress. The layout seeks to capitalise on the lakeside views, reduce patient and family stress by avoiding institutional ambience and clearly defines the separate areas for diagnosis and treatment." The use of external pergolas at the entrance immediately reduces the scale of the building at the point of entrance, whilst the absence of any formal reception desk helps to avoid the apprehension induced by traditional institutional healthcare waiting rooms.

Mura continued, "The bright and airy, double height reception space is extensively glazed, which helps to connect the patient, and their families, to the wider environment whilst simultaneously facilitating panoramic views of the countryside setting. There is a very clear flow from the entrance to the waiting area. Patients are then directed towards either the consultation rooms or the treatment areas which are accessed via a spine corridor running the length of the building. On the ground floor are diagnostic facilities which include CT and MRI scanning equipment; behind this sits the proton beam and linear accelerators. On the first floor is the chemotherapy lounge which benefits not only from individual treatment

Mike Moran, CEO of Proton Partners International, added,

"We are delighted to be welcoming and supporting patients at our second Rutherford Cancer Centre, which is a step closer to our goal of having a Rutherford Cancer Centre within 90 minutes of 75% of the UK population by 2021."

"Working with JDDK has been seamless – they took our vision of having a calming, peaceful treatment facility for patients and their families and turned this into a reality. We look forward to working with them on our other centres in Reading, Liverpool and elsewhere, and to welcoming our first patients at the Rutherford Cancer Centre North East."

cubicles, but also access to a first floor terrace area which again enjoys lakeside views."

The design and construction of such a heavily serviced and precisely engineered centre, at the very cutting edge of medical technology, has provided a multitude of technical challenges to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the completed buildings.

The Cyclotron and linac equipment are housed within specially constructed vaults. The separation of the vault and plant areas from the patient areas was a critical issue in the design, as were the logistics of installing the huge pieces of equipment; the layout not only allows access for the craneage that was required to install the Cyclotron but also allows the removal or replacement of any heavy equipment in the future.

The first floor overlooks the double height waiting area



The bright and airy ground floor.

AIRDRIE HOSPICE REOPENS

St Andrew's Hospice – new multi-occupancy bedroom

St Andrew's Hospice in Airdrie, some 12 miles to the east of Glasgow, has reopened after a £9m refurbishment.

The original 80's building has been transformed internally to create 21 single bedded rooms with en-suite facilities together with three multi-occupancy rooms. All rooms now have direct access to the surrounding gardens, with some rooms providing space for relatives to stay overnight whilst a separate patient entrance has been created providing discreet admission to the wards. During the year long project, undertaken by CCG Construction of Glasgow, the hospice's patients were transferred to nearby Wester Moffat Hospital.

JDDK Associate, Tristan Cooper, explained the work, "The original building was opened in 1986, with mainly shared bedrooms and facilities which were no longer deemed fit for purpose by modern hospice standards. In addition, the electrical and mechanical services needed updating or renewal and it made absolute sense to totally refurbish the hospice in one project to provide modern facilities as Lanarkshire's only specialist palliative care hospice."

"The internal layout had split the hospice into three working wards, whilst the bathrooms took up most of the 'prime' external wall locations which could alternatively have provided external views and access. There was a lack of level access for wheelchairs and beds to be easily moved whilst the staff areas, particularly in the basement were fragmented and underused."

The JDDK design has rationalised the patient area into two working wards with ward facilities relocated in internal spaces allowing the external walls to become windows and doors from individual patient rooms. Support services, including laundry facilities, staff areas, offices and counselling rooms have all been rationalised to maximise the available space for patients, relatives and staff.

"The design process started with JDDK's appointment three years ago. There then followed a close relationship between St Andrew's and JDDK as representatives from each organisation worked collaboratively towards a shared goal to create a building that was both beautiful and at the same time functional. Staff, visitors and most importantly the patients love their new building. It is bright, modern and spacious whilst also managing to retain a homely feel. I have already recommended JDDK to other hospices considering similar exercises and would have no hesitation in doing so again."

Bruce High, St Andrew's Hospice Chief Executive



Bedroom before refurbishment



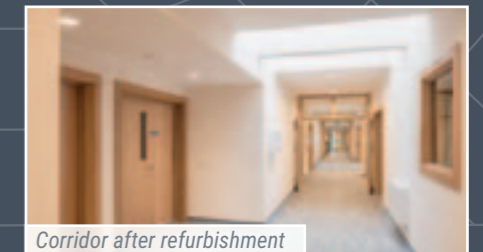
The new reception area



Bedroom after refurbishment



Corridor before refurbishment



Corridor after refurbishment

DESIGNING FOR VISITORS



RSPB Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre

We were naturally very proud for our work at The Sill to be featured by Ruth Dalton, Professor of Building Usability and Visualisation at Northumbria University, in her new book, "Designing for Heritage: Contemporary Visitor Centres" which was published earlier this year.

In truth, however, The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre and even more recently, The RSPB Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, are just the latest of our 'visitor centre' projects which really started with our design for the RSPB's £4m Saltholme Visitor Centre in Teesside in 2005.

Since 2005, however, the number of Visitor Centres being constructed for diverse attractions nationwide has rapidly increased so much so that whilst few had considered them as important architecturally some 20 years ago, they are now a standard component of many university architecture courses.

However, whilst the individual attraction, visitor demography, location and materials may differ, there are some common generic themes and methodology governing their design as Alison Thornton-Sykes, explains, "They're more than just a building, they're a physical manifestation

of the client's aspirations which attract, excite and inspire people, acting almost as a launch pad with which visitors engage to start a journey of exploration. The priority in all Centres is to enhance and maximise the visitor experience so that visitors maybe want to return or certainly recommend the Centre to friends, preferably both!"

"The Centres are all very different primarily to reflect the nature of the attraction, but also determined by the constraints or opportunities of the site. At The Saltholme Centre, for example, the flat site adjacent to wetlands and surrounded by industrial Teesside, led us to develop a vision of the building rising with wing-like roofs out of the water and reeds. The building appears to be set on an island within the wetlands, with a rotating drawbridge which can be opened or closed to allow access or secure the Centre out of hours."



"The Sill was more challenging on a restricted site where we wanted to reflect not only the rugged nature of the immediate landscape but also the superb and unique setting within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. The Sherwood location really determined the design as it sits at the edge of a rural village and the beginning of the forest, so that the Centre reflects the journey from the village square into the forest environment, but also has to deal with a five metre difference in levels!"

The JDDK designs for other Centres have all reflected their immediate environments, from

RSPB Saltholme Visitor Centre



the 'leaf shape' inspired roof of the Calvert Trust's proposed Activity Centre at Kielder Forest to the more modest Anglo Saxon inspired wooden structures of the Northumberlandia Visitor Centre which were to be organised around courtyards filled with trees and ferns and linked by wooden walkways to provide a scheme that can be delivered in phases.

Most Visitor Centre projects rely on fund raising so a common element of the design is for phased developments which featured in our design for Northumberlandia, Kielder and Sherwood.

Sustainability features heavily in the design process, starting with the orientation of the building to maximise on passive solar gains, the placing of heat generating areas to the north and allowing for natural ventilation – at both Saltholme and The Sill, for example, we have a central atrium providing a stack effect for passive ventilation, whilst Saltholme, The Sill and Sherwood all feature overhanging canopies for solar shading.

The designs all blend the client's aspirations to enhance the visitor experience with the very

JDDK Principal Architect, Alison Thornton-Sykes, commented,

"One of the common questions we're often asked in initial meetings and consultation sessions is how such Centres differ from museums.

I think the answer lies in the fact that a museum is a place to learn and acquire knowledge, whereas a Visitor Centre is about having an experience which welcomes, inspires and even changes perceptions.

I think our designs for Centres do that. They're incredibly rewarding projects because they are so individual and are based on so much research and consultation with all the stakeholders."

practical aspects of the building which are the provision of facilities – a café or restaurant, retail areas, education facilities, exhibition space, toilets, kitchen, offices, staff areas and external parking – and it is the combination of appropriate and inspiring aesthetics with the practical necessities that creates the successful Centre.

The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre



Inside RSPB Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre



A TALE OF TWO HOUSES



The Bamburgh home sits between Bamburgh Castle and Armstrong House

Whilst private residential commissions are rare, they're wonderful opportunities to show how challenges of location or structure can be overcome and two recent examples in Bamburgh and Nunnyskirk exemplify this.

In Bamburgh we have designed and overseen the construction of a three bedroom home in a conservation area which lies between the historic and Grade II listed Armstrong House, originally designed in 1914 as a rest home for workers in Lord Armstrong's Tyneside factories and now a rest home managed by the Abbeyfield Group, and the Grade I listed Bamburgh Castle, the highly sensitive location required an equally sensitive design.

JDDK Director, Kevin Turnbull, commented, "New homes in Bamburgh are rare due to planning constraints which have worked superbly well to preserve the village. Our application was on behalf of a local family who now required a three bedroom family dwelling with a range of living space to include a ground floor bedroom – a modern home with minimal impact on the heritage significance of the site, which took advantage of the superb outlook."

"Of prime importance was the need to protect the visual association between Armstrong House and Bamburgh Castle so that Armstrong House could be viewed from the castle and vice versa. The design therefore placed the low profile home to the north of the available site with materials selected to blend in with those of the adjacent buildings and vehicle parking and access discretely hidden from view. The stepped roof profile with varying ridge and eaves heights, combined with retained existing trees protects views from the Castle with the line of sight going over the garden rather than the house itself."

Meanwhile, a six month construction programme to convert an early 19th Century stable block into a unique home has completed close to the Grade I listed Nunnyskirk Hall, near Netherwitton in Northumberland.

Nunnyskirk Hall was built in 1825 for William Orde, with the Hall's stables constructed shortly thereafter. The most famous horse owned by William Orde was Beeswing (1833 – 1854),

The interior of Beeswing House at Nunnyskirk



entering 63 events, she won an astonishing 51 times; of the 57 races she finished, she was placed lower than second only once and it therefore seemed appropriate to name the conversion after her.

The original stables were built on three sides, or ranges, of a central square courtyard, predominantly single storey with a two storey Coach House element on the northern range, and a later single storey kennel block to the west. All of which now forms the four bedroom Beeswing House conversion with the east range remaining as storage and garage accommodation.

Beeswing House is now a stunning holiday home based on the original Georgian sandstone construction but incorporating 21st Century technology with contemporary air source heat pumps and under-floor heating. Our design has optimised the natural light and stunning rural views with lofty high ceilings and exposed beams set alongside cosy family living space.

Beeswing House is now currently being successfully let out as holiday accommodation. Our client, Sam Orde, commented, "After the usual pressures to bring the project to completion, we were pleased to be able to

welcome holiday makers through the summer holidays and the excellent feedback from all the early guests is testament to the great result from the design team and the builders. We had been aspiring to bring these lovely old buildings into a modern use for many years and we are thrilled by the way in which this property enhances the whole area."

Both projects were built by DP Builders of Amble.

Sam Dixon, JDDK Project Architect for Beeswing House, commented,

"It's been a wonderful project to work on as it involved integrating new technology into an historic framework. Wherever possible we have retained original features such as a fire surround, exposed beams, arches and the modern timber sash windows are inspired by the design and proportions of the originals. The original building consisted of solid stone external walls which weren't particularly energy efficient, we therefore introduced a new wood fibre solid wall insulation system called Pavadry, which helped improve the thermal efficiency while still allowing the building to breathe avoiding a buildup of condensation internally."

BEADNELL POINT RESTAURANT PLANNING APPLICATION

A CGI of the proposed café/restaurant at Beadnell Point



Acting on behalf of our clients, Northumberland Estates, we have applied for Planning Permission from Northumberland County Council for a high quality café/restaurant at the Beadnell Point development.

Located to the south of the recently constructed Beadnell Point development, the two storey design uses the same materials and detailing

ensuring that their common architectural language enhances the already strong sense of place that now exists in this part of the village.

The restaurant offers first and ground floor seating orientated to face south and west with an extensive balcony and terrace area below with views over the dunes to the coast which can be closed off with glazed screens during inclement weather.

Project architect and JDDK Director, Nicky Watson, commented,
"The design creates a gateway building to the whole Beadnell Point development which maximises the opportunities of beach views. It provides opportunities for outdoor dining but acknowledging the climate of the north east coast, it provides shelter and allows operations to be scaled down at quieter times of the week or year."

The separate seating areas are a response to the varying demand at particular times of year or days of the week so that the scale of the catering operation can be adapted accordingly.

REFURBISHMENT WORK STARTS AT ALNWICK PLAYHOUSE

Work on a £2.5m refurbishment of Alnwick Playhouse began in September in what has been described as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to turn the much-loved arts venue into a community hub, but will require the facility to be closed for almost a year.

Our scheme will allow badly needed improvements and repairs to be undertaken to a building that has become the centre of the town's social and cultural calendar as well as offering an efficient rationalisation of the Local Authority amenity space in the town by rehousing Northumberland County Council's Customer Services, Library and Tourist Information facilities on the ground floor.

Jo Potts, Playhouse Manager, added,
"It really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure the future of the Playhouse for the people of Alnwick and Northumberland. Whilst we're obviously sad to be closing during the construction work, it's incredibly exciting and we'll still be very busy on fundraising activities."

Originally built in 1925 as a cinema and music hall, with falling audiences the Playhouse had closed in 1979 before re-opening in 1983 as a small theatre venue for the Northumberland Theatre Trust (NTC) and sharing the venue with



Artist's impression of refurbished bar area (courtesy of Ward Robinson Ltd)

the Alnwick District Playhouse Trust (ADPT) who ran the auditorium, providing a variety of services.

JDDK Associate Director and Project Architect, Nicky Hodgson, explained the scheme, "The Playhouse sits in a fairly restricted site facing onto Bondgate Without but sadly, was no longer fit for purpose. The whole purpose of the refurbishment is to provide an improved Arts and Community Facility for the 60,000 visitors who currently enjoy the facility's events by re-modelling the interior, providing a new Playhouse restaurant and café, a new lift facility with back stage improvements and a new studio



Alnwick Playhouse

theatre, providing a dedicated space for work with children and young people."

"There'll also be a new ground level entrance for wheelchair and buggy access, a new airflow and heating system, a refurbished bar area with additional toilets whilst improvements in the main theatre will include increased leg room and a brand new hearing loop system making every seat user friendly to hearing impaired patrons."

FACES OF ARCHITECTURE

RIBA North East's #facesofarchitecture initiative gives an insight into RIBA North East members, showcasing their diversity, skills, interests and backgrounds.

On May 16, our own Nicky Watson was featured whilst August 13 saw the glare of publicity upon Otis Murdoch.

Their interesting articles can be found at: www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/faces-of-architecture-nicky-watson and www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/faces-of-architecture-otis-murdoch



Otis features in RIBA North East's faces of Architecture

PEOPLE'S PASSIONS AND WHY NOT?

I may not be Barry Norman but I share his love of films and the cinema which goes right back to watching old black and white movies on a Sunday afternoon such as The Dam Busters or The Lavender Hill Mob to a late night treat, with my Grandad, of watching James Bond on TV.

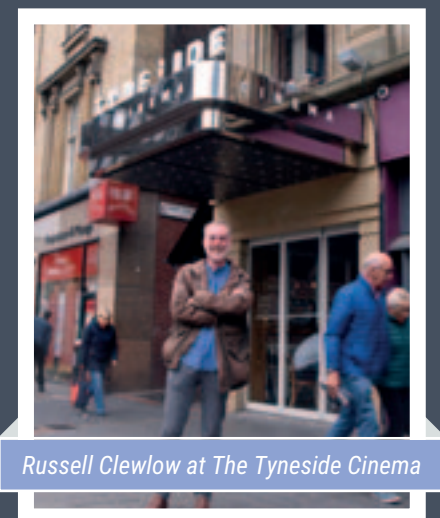
In fact seeing 'The Spy Who Loved Me' on the big screen was what really hooked me and ever since I've been fascinated by every aspect of the art – from directing, acting, the technical side of stunts and effects, practical and CGI, including the script writing (having attempted this myself and still awaiting a call from Ridley Scott). So DVDs, with all the extras, have been an absolute bonus.

My children, Aika and Lukas, are also keen cinema goers, with the Marvel franchise being a favourite, whilst my wife, Shynara, introduced me to the work of the Kazakh Director, Timur Bekmambetov, and his epic Russian fantasy film, Night Watch.

Picking a favourite film is difficult but The Man in the White Suit with Alec Guinness, Citizen Kane, Get Carter, The Whicker Man or Alien are all up there. My favourite director though is Terry Gilliam and the dreamlike dancing in New York's Central Station in The Fisher King is probably my favourite scene of any movie.

We're also fortunate in Newcastle to have The Tyneside Cinema at which I've watched many films, from blockbusters to foreign and art-house films such as Akira, Jean de Florette and Delicatessen – it's fine watching films on large screen TV at home, with all that is available through streaming etc., but nothing can beat the experience of sitting in the dark, watching a film on the big screen along with the reactions of joy, screams, laughs, terror or amazement of a large audience.

That's all folks!!!!



Russell Clewlow at The Tyneside Cinema

AT JDDK

We believe Architecture goes beyond just our day jobs, so here's just a selection of what the gang get up to.

Alison Thornton-Sykes has become an Ambassador for the Architects Benevolent Society (ABS), one of the longest established occupational benevolent funds in the UK dedicated to helping past and present members of the wider architectural profession, and their families, in times of need.

The Society has been in existence since 1850, and was formed to relieve poverty for members of the architectural profession in 'necessitous circumstances'. Since 1850, the Society has helped tens of thousands of people with a variety of financial and support needs, responding to each individual case sensitively. The ABS is a registered charity, funded mainly by voluntary income and rental income, and annually gives approximately £1m to over 600 members of the architectural community and their families.

Alison Thornton-Sykes



Nicky Watson has been appointed External Examiner on the Masters of Architecture course at the University of Salford. She has also began a second three year position on RIBA Council representing the North East, and has been elected as RIBA Vice President for Education.



Nicky Watson

Alison Thornton-Sykes and Clair Sanders are now co-chairs of the RIBA North East Housing Group.



Clair Sanders

Stuart Franklin is heavily involved in the RIBA North East Research and Innovation Forum.



Stuart Franklin

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