

MILLMOUNT NEWS SPRING 2023



PLANNING APPLICATION FOR BRANDON

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR BRANDON AND MURTON DEVELOPMENTS



Proposed streetscape at Bevan Square, Murton



In the Spring 2022 issue, we reported that we had been appointed to the believe housing framework for suppliers and consultants. We have now submitted planning applications for their proposed developments at Brandon and Murton in County Durham as part of their five-year 'More Homes, Better Places' Development Strategy (2021-26), which aims to deliver a further 1,250 properties (250 per year) by 2026.

The application for Brandon is for 107 new homes in a mix of bungalows and two-storey houses, which includes 11 different designs of two, three and four bedroom dwellings. All the homes are provided as affordable housing through a mix of shared ownership, rent to buy and affordable rent tenures. The application follows two public consultations at the local Brandon Community Association Hall and a further online public consultation which drew almost 1,000 site visitors. In addition, pre-application consultation has also been carried out with Durham County Council. The scheme will involve the demolition of the 121 homes currently on the site with a key element of the layout being the creation of a central landscaped strip (green spine). This will run along the length of the site to link the different parts, providing a pleasant outlook for properties and safe areas for children's play and general social interaction.

Proposed view of SuDS basin at Brandon development

The homes themselves have been designed to fit in with the surrounding residential neighbourhoods with simple detailing and modern window proportions. Each of the homes will benefit from air source heat pumps and it is likely that the majority of properties will benefit from PV panels.

The Murton scheme is for a smaller development of just 23 homes at Bevan Square, which includes four, two-bedroom bungalows and 19, two, three and four bedroom houses, all provided as affordable housing through a mix of rent to buy and affordable rent tenures by believe housing.

Central to this scheme's layout is the retention of a central landscaped area that is currently well used by existing residents and will be enhanced further with new planting to make it a more attractive feature of the site and provide a pleasant aspect for new and existing properties.

A SuDs (Sustainable Drainage System) basin is also located to the north eastern corner of the site to provide a sustainable drainage solution, as well as an interesting area for social interaction and wildlife.

JDDK Director and Project Architect, Mura Mullan, said, "We were obviously delighted to be appointed to the believe housing framework and are excited about these first two schemes for them, which will both provide high quality affordable housing to meet local needs in County Durham."

Kate Abson, Director of Development at believe housing, added, "The high quality and energy efficient homes we're proposing will help meet local demand and support local services and amenities."



MARTIN HOUSE UPDATE

Our design for the ambitious refurbishment and expansion of Martin House Children's Hospice at Boston Spa, Wetherby, was granted planning permission by Leeds City Council in November 2020 and is fast approaching a start on site with tenders scheduled to be issued in April, leading to the appointment of a contractor in July with construction hopefully commencing in the Autumn.

Opened in 1987, Martin House was only the second such hospice for children and young people with life-limiting conditions, while its Whitby Lodge unit for teenagers and young people was the UK's first when opened in 2002. The need to improve and update the Hospice to accommodate children's more complex needs, including en-suite facilities to increase privacy and dignity, led the Hospice Board to interview various architects before awarding the project to JDDK.

JDDK Project Architect and Associate Director, Stuart Franklin, commented, "Martin House, like any charitable organisation, needs their money to work hard and go a long way, so the scheme maximises the amount of refurbishment and minimises more expensive new build extensions. It still increases the gross internal area by almost 2,000 sq m with single and double storey extensions which create a new 'Orangery' space, an Education Suite, nine dedicated children's rooms with en-suite facilities, together with parent bedrooms. Crucially the design also allows construction to be phased in line with fund-raising activities and ensures the Hospice can carry on operating during construction."

"As the whole construction is to be phased and carried out within a live site, requiring both staff and patients to be decanted within the existing building, it's going to be a challenging scheme but the end result will be worth the period of disruption."

Martin House Education Suite



24/7 PET HOSPITAL

Our design for Wear Referral's state-of-the-art Veterinary Referral Hospital at Bradbury outside Sedgfield was the setting for BBC One's amazing series, 24/7 Pet Hospital, which ran throughout February.

Featuring the work of the hospital's 170 staff who provide not only emergency care but also a referral service for the region's pets, the series also showcased the 1,600 sq m structure, designed as a Centre of Excellence which contains MRI and CT scanners, four operating theatres, a chemotherapy and rehabilitation ward, dedicated intensive care unit and staff training facilities.

Originally opened in 2015, 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.



Children's Assessment Centre at Seton Avenue, Simonside



Children's Assessment Centre at Seton Avenue, Simonside

TRIO OF PLANNING APPROVALS FOR NEW CHILDREN'S CENTRES

South Tyneside Council have granted planning permission for our designs of two new Children's Centres in Jarrow and Hebburn together with a purpose-built Children's Assessment Centre within South Shields.

The £3.6m scheme have been designed to provide accommodation for some of the South Tyneside's most vulnerable children.

JDDK Director and Project Architect, Mura Mullan, explained how the designs answered the challenges of designing for young people in need. "The homes are for young people of differing ages who need alternative accommodation for a variety of reasons. As such, it is vital to provide a domestic environment which they can call home and stay close to family and friends for the duration of their stay at the individual home."

"It's also vital to provide an environment that is safe for both the young people and the live-in staff who will be their carers whilst the homes are designed using a 'fabric first' approach to energy efficiency including high levels of thermal insulation and air tightness with Air Source Heat pumps rather than carbon emitting heat systems, photo-voltaic panels and triple glazing, all of which indicate the aspiration to exceed current Building Regulations."

The two storey Jarrow home, to be built on vacant land off Grant Street, has four bedrooms with en-suite facilities for the children and two further staff bedrooms. The ground floor is designed for activity spaces and a communal area, all of which have internal windows to increase visual connections. In addition, the design allows the conversion of one of the ground floor activity areas into an accessible bedroom should this be required in the future. Externally, the design has created relaxing and secure garden spaces and there is also a self-contained single storey annex which can be used for additional staff accommodation.

The Hebburn home, on another brownfield site off Victoria Court, is also domestic in scale, fitting in with the surrounding neighbourhood and follows broadly similar design principles with ample on-site parking for up to six vehicles and electric charging points for each vehicle.

The Children's Assessment Centre, on vacant land behind Seton Avenue in the Simonside area of South Shields, is designed with just two bedrooms for children and two bedrooms for staff. The ground floor is split into semi-public spaces for social care and medical professional assessment and private areas for the young residents, each with its own entrance. The first floor bedrooms can only be accessed from this private area providing additional security.

Mura Mullan continued, "The core principles of the designs were to create a variety of safe spaces to suit different needs and to achieve the required building functionality. All the ground floor living and activity spaces connect out onto the garden spaces and include small break-out spaces for privacy. To the first floors, the bedrooms are arranged so staff can more easily monitor activity within and outside of the building via strategically placed windows."

Councilor Adam Ellison, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families, added: "As a Local Authority we take our corporate parenting responsibilities very seriously, and it is something that I place specific emphasis on."

"Children and young people in our care deserve the very best homes and parenting experience possible, and for many that means living in the communities they call home, close to their family, friends and schools."

"The approval of these planning applications is a welcome step towards improving outcomes for the children in our care, and a key part of our commitment to our young people."



Children's Home at Grant Street, Jarrow



Children's Home at Victoria Court, Hebburn



Children's Home at Grant Street, Jarrow



JDDK's design for Sea Island Developments' extra care facility at Spalding

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR LINCOLNSHIRE EXTRA CARE HOUSING

Our collaboration with Newcastle-based extra care housing developers, Sea Island Developments Ltd, has continued in their February planning application to provide 69 extra care apartments for older people at Spalding in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire.

Having worked with ourselves on the successful application for a similar development in North Tyneside, Sea Island Developments now hopes to gain permission for the first development of its type in South Holland.

The linear brownfield site overlooking the River Welland was previously occupied by a builder's merchant, now demolished with the site becoming overgrown with dense vegetation. Although well connected to a wide range of local amenities, the site is within a Flood Zone 3 as identified by the Environment Agency, requiring the ground floor to be raised.

Samantha Dixon, Project Architect, explained how the design responded to the site's constraints and opportunities. "The linear form of the building is a direct response to the site. The ground floor has been raised above existing site levels in response to the flood risk, which has allowed us to provide a basement car park beneath the four floors of apartments."

"Internally there are communal and staff facilities grouped around the main entrance, for convenience of visitors and security of residents. Central corridors are filled with natural daylight through windows on all sides, and are staggered with break-out spaces, alleviating problems with wayfinding, particularly for those living with dementia."

"The individual apartments are designed to accommodate changing or complex needs, allowing space for the storage and charging of manual and electric wheelchairs and the capacity for bed hoists to wet rooms if required. Each apartment is laid out with an open plan kitchen and living space and has its own private balcony."

"Externally, the dual pitched roofs and low eaves reduce the scale of the building within its surroundings, with gables and dormer windows breaking up the mass.

Meanwhile, the contrasting bricks, render and timber effect cladding, together with a fourth storey of the central wing, combine to add visual interest."

The whole building has also been designed to be thermally and energy efficient through the use of a 'fabric first' approach with high levels of thermal insulation. Non fossil fuel heating systems, such as air source heat pumps, alongside renewable technologies such as photovoltaic panels will be used throughout the building.

Sea Island's Managing Director, Mark Walton, added, "We're delighted to have been able to secure this key site within Spalding and to submit the design for a superb building that has the potential to massively improve quality of life by enabling local people, often with changing or complex needs, to keep their own front door."

"At Sea Island Developments, we work collaboratively with local authorities to develop extra care housing for older people where there is evidence of need. We also try to bring together both innovative design and technology with the needs of the end user in mind, and this is why the collaboration process with local authorities and JDDK Architects has been so important to the scheme."



'FABRIC FIRST' APPROACH GAINS PLANNING PERMISSION AT PELTON

Durham County Council have granted planning permission to Karbon Homes for our design of a 107 homes housing scheme on the site of the former Roseberry Sports Community College at Pelton, near Chester-le-Street.

The scheme is located just off Pelton Lane and comprises a wide mix of property types to provide affordable homes for the different ages of the local community, including dedicated accommodation of eight, two-bedroom bungalows and 31, two-bedroom apartments specifically designed for residents aged over 55. The remaining 68 properties are a mix of two-, three- and four-bedroom family homes which will be available on a rent-to-buy basis.

Lea Smith, Karbon Homes' Development Manager, commented, "There's a real need for more affordable housing in the area and we're delighted to have



Karbon Homes' proposed 107 home development at Pelton

worked with JDDK Architects to design a development that meets the needs of the local community with a mix of property types and sizes to provide options for residents at varying stages of life."

"This includes apartments and bungalows for rent, to help combat the shortage of accessible homes for older residents in the area, alongside family homes to help those who might otherwise struggle to get on to the property ladder."

JDDK Director, Mura Mullan, added, "In line with our brief from Karbon Homes, the properties have also been designed with a 'fabric first' approach which aims to maximise the energy performance of the components and materials that make up the building fabric itself, before considering the installation of heating systems and other building services to achieve ambitious energy efficiency levels. By this, we can reduce both the construction cost and the heating costs of the homes, improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions and maintenance costs."

Both the bungalows and apartments for over 55 residents have also been designed to be not only

fully accessible but also adaptable to changing lifetime requirements. The apartment building itself provides generous circulation spaces with ample passing places for wheelchair users. Windows at corridor ends avoid any sense of confinement, in line with current dementia care guidance, and helps wayfinding. In addition to each apartment's private outdoor balcony, a shared roof terrace is provided at the second floor, whilst the design also includes a shared communal lounge.



The Northeast Disabilities Resource Centre (NDRC) at Valiant Close



MORE AWARDS FOR VALIANT CLOSE

In the previous issue of Millmount News, we celebrated the success of Sunderland City Council's Valiant Close development which was named Best Housing, Regeneration or New Build Initiative at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards. Additionally, the development was also commended in MJ (Municipal Journal) Awards for the 'Best Social Housing Initiative' in recognition of its efforts to deliver affordable homes for rent for residents across the city and shortlisted in the Inside Housing Awards in the Best Development and Best Healthy Homes Development categories.

Not content with such success, in February, the development was part of Sunderland City Council's Housing Delivery and Investment Plan (HDIP) which won the Housing Digital Most Innovative Support/ Care Service Award, with the judges citing, "...the fantastic integration of new technology in building design". Sunderland City Council then won the Most Innovative Housing Provider Award, so a good result on all counts!

Our design for the innovative mixed development off Cork Street, Hendon, near Sunderland city centre, has redeveloped the previous Northeast Disabilities Resource Centre (NDRC) with a brand-new facility and created 17 new bungalows, 16 of which are designed specifically for residents with disabilities, on the adjacent unused land.

The NDRC is a specialist day care centre which provides personal support packages to enable people with disabilities, many of whom are diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and allied conditions such as a physical disability and/or a learning disability, to get the most from life. The original centre is now replaced with a purpose-built two storey structure, containing reception area, treatment rooms, canteen and kitchen and event and activity areas to the ground floor with further activity rooms and offices to the first floor which overlook the adjacent bungalows.

The new bungalows, which will be managed by NDRC, have been designed externally to blend in with the traditional scale and form of the neighbouring housing in Hendon but with a contemporary twist.



Sunderland City Council's award-winning Valiant Close development

FIRST AWARD FOR NORTHERN ROOTS

The Northern Roots scheme won the Landscape Institute's Partnership and Collaboration Award in November last year.

Set in 160 acres in the heart of Oldham, the scheme is creating the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park and a unique new community asset and visitor destination, offering a range of new facilities and activities whilst also creating jobs, training and business opportunities for local people. In addition to protecting and enhancing the habitat, biodiversity and environmental value of the 160-acre site, the project will also support the health and wellbeing of local residents and communities.

The Landscape Institute award recognises the very highest standards of partnership and cross-discipline collaboration on landscape projects with judges praising numerous aspects of the work done so far – "...an exemplary project in terms of professional cooperation and collaboration between all the stakeholders", whilst another judge noted that, "The project team have engaged with an incredible range of stakeholders and considered quality across all stages of the project."

Other judges' comments included, "An exceptional project in its infancy to realisation. Truly worthwhile contender for the award." and, "An inspirational project showcasing the potential for landscape to improve lives."

At the heart of the project is the philosophy that the community should be involved in shaping the vision, raising funds, animating the site and benefiting from the opportunities that come from the urban farm and eco-park. As such, public consultations have played a major role in influencing the final designs of not only the site as a whole, but also the Visitor Centre and Learning Centre which the practice has designed.

Public engagement had actually begun in 2018 and continued throughout the concept design process. Led by JDDK Principal Architect, Alison Thornton-Sykes, design workshops were held in 2021 at Oldham College and the Mahdlo Youth Zone where attendees were presented with boards illustrating the proposed masterplan, images of relevant spaces and activities and were asked to place stickers on the things they liked or leave post-it notes with comments. Later workshops introduced further boards and models together with plasticine for creative modelling ideas suggested by the concept ideas of butterflies and bees, fossil forest, roots and stone, beehives, history and transformation...from soot and dust...to roots and honey.

In October 2022, Oldham Council Planning Committee gave unanimous approval to the hybrid planning application for Northern Roots with the planning permission including detailed design proposals for the Visitor Centre and Learning Centre.

Alison Thornton-Sykes commented, "The collaboration between all the stakeholders and consultants working for Northern Roots was incredible. To be part of a professional team which worked so successfully together for the common aim of creating something very special for Oldham has been a great experience for all of us."



The winning Northern Roots team



The public consultations were held in a variety of venues!...



The main entrance courtyard of Hebburn Gardens

£26M HEBBURN EXTRA CARE SCHEME

In early February, in association with our client, Karbon Homes, we held the first public consultation with local residents to show our designs for Hebburn Gardens, a new Extra Care scheme proposed for Hebburn Town Centre.

Combined, the schemes will deliver up to 300 new homes, helping address the lack of specialist affordable accommodation options in the borough that help people with differing levels of care and support needs to live well and independently. Zoey Hawthorne, Assistant Director of Development Delivery at Karbon Homes, said: "We're excited to be working with South Tyneside Council to develop three, first-class extra care schemes. These quality homes will play an important role in meeting the demand for specialist housing in the area.

"Our vision for these schemes is to create strong and sustainable places that help empower people with additional care and support needs to live life to the full and bring the local community together."

We hope to submit the Hebburn scheme for planning permission in April, dependant on the feedback from the community consultations.

Working closely with South Tyneside Council, the £26m scheme proposes a two and three storey building which will contain 95 homes, a mix of 20 two-bedroom apartments and 75 one-bedroom apartments, 17 of which are designed specifically for people with dementia. The scheme has been designed to put the community at its heart and help facilitate community cohesion with a ground floor bistro café, which will be open to the general public, and multi-use spaces for activities.

With the café and communal facilities accessed from an entrance plaza, the scheme also features an internal residents' courtyard garden and a separate Dementia courtyard garden, enclosed by the specialist one bedroom apartments. The development will also feature a dedicated SuDS (Sustainable Drainage System) basin which not only manages stormwater but also provides a wetland habitat area for residents to enjoy. All apartments will enjoy a private balcony or courtyard whilst internally the spaces have been designed as wheelchair friendly with wide corridors and private wheelchair storage areas in each apartment.

The Hebburn scheme is the first of three Karbon Homes projects to provide much-needed, specialist Extra Care accommodation across South Tyneside over the next six years and will remodel the expectation of extra care, which is typically aimed at older adults who require support to live independently.



Hebburn Gardens' internal courtyard garden



West elevation of the proposed Hebburn Gardens development with external terrace

£11M ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADE PROJECT FOR BYKER WALL ESTATE



The designs for Clive Place involve hard and soft landscaping (after)



Clive Place (before)

In the Spring 2019 issue of Millmount News, we outlined our work for the Byker Community Trust (BCT), now part of Karbon Homes. The project involved the design of environmental improvements to a pilot area after meeting a Steering Group of tenants to gain insight on the environmental issues affecting the Estate and their preferred options to resolve these.

Following the announcement of an £11 million investment programme from BCT between now and 2029, these improvements are set to commence this summer with works addressing waste management, creation of safe play and open spaces, improved fencing and landscaping across the estate.

BCT worked with ourselves on the wider consultation and we have developed a master plan for the area which includes proposals that are affordable, meet the investment priorities and are delivered in line with the estate's Grade II* listing. Representatives from Historic England and conservation and planning officers from Newcastle City Council have also been involved throughout the process.



The public areas of Dunn Terrace will be transformed

As part of the delivery plans, the estate has been separated into 11 distinct neighbourhood areas for the implementation of the works, all of which have their own unique characteristics.

Dunn Terrace and Headlam Green are the first two areas on the estate to benefit from these improvements and consultation with customers began this week on the installation of new communal bin stores and the introduction of recycling facilities.

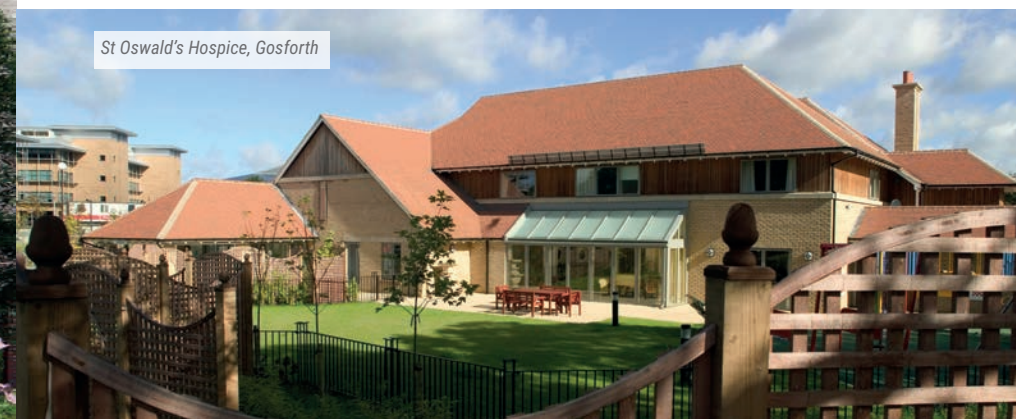
Michelle Bell, Assistant Director Byker Community at Karbon Homes, said, "It's great to see the delivery of these improvements get underway. Customers living in Byker told us their main priority was waste management, so we're tackling this first and we'll use these as pilots, gathering feedback from our customers living in these areas, before rolling out waste management improvements across the estate.

"Dunn Terrace will also be the first neighbourhood to benefit from other improvements including increased play provision for children and young people, fencing replacement and tree management. We've invited all customers living in this area to give us their views and feedback on the proposed designs for their neighbourhood."



Dunn Terrace (before)

ST OSWALD'S HOSPICE CELEBRATES JANE DARBYSHIRE, ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



St Oswald's Hospice, Gosforth

We're indebted to our longest running client, St Oswald's Hospice, for allowing us to reprint their interview with JDDK Architects' founder and friend, Jane Darbyshire.

To mark International Women's Day and to celebrate women's achievements, we'd like to introduce you to a woman who was instrumental in making St Oswald's Hospice a reality for our whole community.

Jane Darbyshire OBE, designed the original architectural plans for St Oswald's Hospice over 43 years ago. Working closely with Dorothy Jameson, our Founder, and co-founder Cyril Winkell, Jane felt strongly that she wanted to design an environment that would feel 'like a home – not a hospital' for our patients and their families.

Now retired, we caught up with Jane to talk about her experience as a young woman in a fairly male dominated field at the time and how she approached the design of the Hospice.

Jane said: "Shortly after setting up practice in 1979, we won an Architectural Competition to design St Oswald's Hospice. I was delighted! I was the only woman involved in the process. I felt very proud.

"To help me understand what surroundings mattered most to hospice patients and their families, I visited St Christopher's Hospice in London. One of the things that struck me most was the amount of nature and green space around. I compared it to a hospital

building and I knew I wanted St Oswald's Hospice to reflect this."

Jane explained that her sister died in a hospital and this made her realise the difference and just how important hospice care is. Jane explained: "I lost my sister at the age of 45 due to cancer. I felt as though the treatment and the attitude she received from the team in hospital was almost as though they'd given up hope – they didn't think to focus on the time she had left with us.

"This was so different to what I'd seen at St Christopher's. One patient who left a lasting impression on me was an 18-year-old man who had undergone multiple brain surgeries. The staff rallied together and got him an array of silly hats to wear that covered the scars on his head.

"I thought that was brilliant – everyone was laughing. That's when I thought the design has to reflect the joy and happiness that takes place in a hospice."

Jane, Dorothy, Cyril and the other Trustees worked together to hold focus groups about the design.

"I worked closely with the Trustees to develop the feel of the Hospice in great detail. We held focus groups with people who would be involved in the building and the common theme that ran throughout those groups was, 'don't make it look or feel like a hospital'.

"In our design meetings, I made sure all of our suppliers knew this, so that we created a homely, rather than institutional, feel and to make patients and their families feel like it was their own home. We made sure that patients could overlook the garden area from their room and could even be taken outside in their beds to enjoy warm days.

"There were similar pressures that applied as there would be with any clinical setting. We had to make sure the walls and doors were protected from trolleys,



Jane Darbyshire

so we installed big skirting boards with panelled ash wood to make it feel more comfortable."

To make sure that not only the design but the interiors were different from that of a hospital, Jane enlisted the help of an art student to design and create the St Oswald sculpture that now sits outside of the main building. Jane also worked alongside artists to design glass and furniture and in choosing artworks, including tapestries for the dining room, to make a bright and lively space for those that used it.

Talking about her relationship with Dorothy, Cyril and the other Trustees, Jane said: "It was truly inspiring to work alongside Cyril and the other Trustees. However, it is International Women's Day, so I feel I must pay special homage to Dorothy, who in my eyes was a saint. Dorothy believed every second of the way we could accomplish our goal and get the Hospice up and running. And here we are – in 2023 and still going strong!"

St Oswald's Hospice won the 'RIBA Building of the Year' in 1987. Jane was also awarded an OBE in 1994 for 'services to architecture' largely due to her hospice work not only at St Oswald's Hospice – but others that followed later.

We'd like to say a big thank you to Jane for her vision and helping us to create such a special place for our patients and their families.

"St Oswald's Hospice is a charity rooted in the North East. We provide outstanding, specialist and expert care to adults and children with life-limiting conditions.

To find out more about St Oswald's Hospice, please visit their website at www.stoswaldsuk.org and if you would like to make a donation, please visit www.stoswaldsuk.org/get-involved/make-a-donation.



St Oswald's Hospice Day Services Outpatient Suite (2009)



Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall at our 25th Anniversary celebrations in 2017 at Jesmond Dene House Hotel

CONGRATULATIONS TO...



TRISTAN COOPER who has become an Associate Director. Tristan joined JDDK in 2005 and has led the detail design and delivery of much of the practice's housing schemes and healthcare projects. He said, "I'm delighted to have been made an Associate Director. The role allows me further capacity to represent the company and deliver high quality schemes on behalf of our clients at what promises to be an exciting year for JDDK. As part of the role I will further develop legislative Health and Safety compliance both in house and throughout our schemes."



CLAIR SANDERS who has become an Associate Director with specific responsibility for Quality Management, joined the practice in 2006. She commented, "JDDK's Quality Management System is both a requirement of being an RIBA Chartered Practice and is of great benefit to us as a business. It sets out procedures to ensure we are meeting customer needs and providing quality of service, alongside efficient and effective working. I make sure the procedures are relevant, continually improved and able to be implemented within our day-to-day work. I organise staff training and relevant documentation which reinforces our culture of customer care and quality of service."



SAMANTHA DIXON who has been promoted to Associate with responsibility for Conservation and Heritage projects. Sam joined us in 2013 during which time she has developed specific skills and knowledge in the conservation and heritage sectors and has gained accreditation as an RIBA Conservation Architect. She said, "As a recognition of my accreditation as an RIBA Accredited Conservation Architect, my role as an Associate will be to develop this expertise and take a lead on Conservation and Heritage projects within the office, as well as providing support to other JDDK team members working on projects within this sector."



CHUN YUEN who has been promoted to Associate with responsibility for Standards & Regulation. Chun, who joined the practice in 2013, commented, "I am delighted to have been promoted to the position of Associate at JDDK Architects. In the role I will be making sure that as a practice we are keeping up to date with the various regulations and standards that our technical designs need to comply with. This is an area of our work that I take a lot of interest in – for example in recent months I have been leading us in getting to grips with the most recent changes in Building Regulations relating to conservation of fuel and power as well as those that deal with avoiding overheating in our homes."

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS!

As reported in the previous Autumn 2022 issue of Millmount News, we not only exhibited at the Hospice UK Conference at the SEC Glasgow in November, but JDDK Director, Adam Vaughan, who specialises in sustainable design, was also one of the expert panel to lead a workshop considering "The business case for environmental sustainability".

In addition, we launched our new Hospice Design brochure to celebrate the practice's 35 years working in the sector and highlighting just some of the more than 50 projects we have completed since St Oswald's Hospice in Newcastle, our first hospice project in 1987, to our most recent at Martin House Children's Hospice in Wetherby and this is now available to download in the new 'Downloads' section on our website - www.jddk.co.uk/downloads -

where additional information is also available.

As part of the promotion we also gave away our 'seed bombs' of wild flower seeds to attendees, inviting recipients to take part in our Helping Hospices Bloom competition by sowing the seed bombs at their respective hospice and then sending us a photo of the wildflowers in bloom this Summer for a chance to win £500 for the hospice.

So for all those who still have their seedbombs – now is the time to get sowing!



The refurbished homes in Walker



RETROFIT PROJECTS UPDATE

Our work for Your Homes Newcastle and Newcastle City Council at Walker continues on schedule with the pilot property at Musgrave Terrace now complete.

Acting as both Retrofit Designer and Retrofit Coordinator, the empty property has been fitted with new windows, doors, loft insulation, external wall insulation, ventilation fans and Air Tightness measures. The results of the investment will be closely measured whilst we're currently monitoring progress on over 250 other properties within the scheme to ensure work is being done in accordance with our designs and to check that any bad site practices are spotted early to avoid them being repeated on other properties.

Meanwhile in Worcestershire, our project with Wates for the Citizen Housing and Rooftop Housing Associations, which has been funded by SHDF (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund) Demonstrator round is also nearing completion.

JDDK DISCOVER DESIGN DELIVER

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