

MILLMOUNT NEWS AUTUMN 2019



LIVING ROOFS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY JUST PART OF OUR RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CRISIS – SEE MORE IN OUR CENTRE SPREAD

LABC PARTNERING SUCCESS WITH SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL



The JDDK team with members of Sunderland City Council Building Control Department

Our partnership with the Building Control Department of Sunderland City Council won a prestigious LABC (Local Authority Building Control) Building Excellence Award as the Best Partnership at the NE regional LABC Awards on Friday 5th July.

As a regional winner, the partnership now also goes through to the National LABC Finals to be held in London in November.

The partnership, which originally began in 2002, has grown in the intervening years to the benefit of both organisations as JDDK Director, Nicky Watson, explained, "We've built up a great

relationship with Sunderland's Building Control team and use their services on our projects nationwide.

"We're guaranteed a fast response to our queries and they have a very pro-active approach to Building Control matters. By working closely together on diverse projects over the years, we understand the way each other works and can carry successful outcomes from one project to the next.

"It's a very constructive relationship from which our clients also benefit in that it helps us to deliver design proposals which are imaginative,

efficient, affordable, buildable and above all work well. I think the key is the actual citation on the award certificate which states, **"For building excellence in the delivery of outstanding construction and workmanship."**

"We understand construction, we believe firmly in the "craft" of detailing and the positive impact this can have on the quality of our built environment and we are extremely proud of the technical expertise within JDDK Architects, which makes this award particularly special. We look forward to working with the Sunderland Building Control Team for many years in the future."

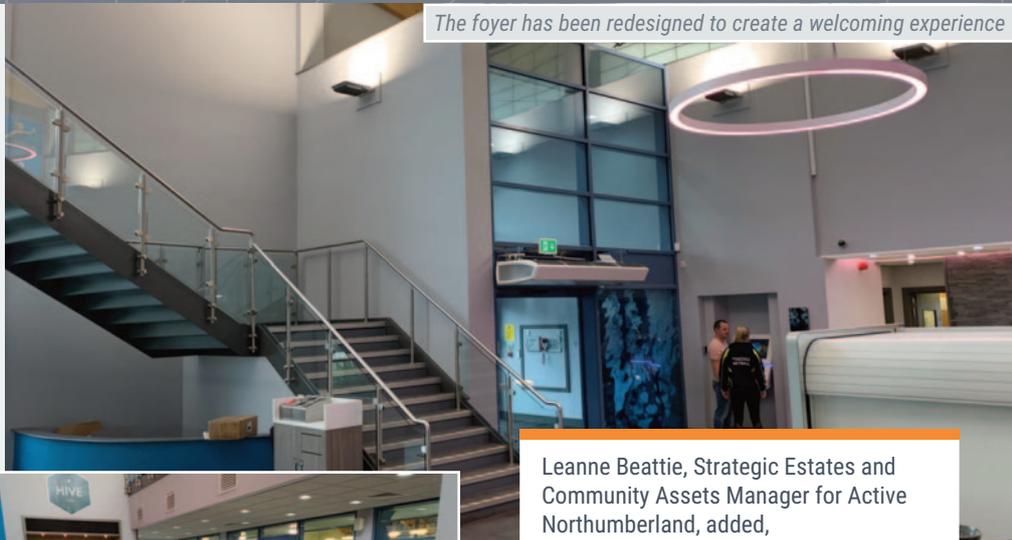
WENTWORTH LEISURE CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

Our £698,000 refurbishment of Hexham's Wentworth Leisure Centre, which officially opened on 30th September, has been designed as a new template for similar schemes at Northumberland County Council's other leisure centres.

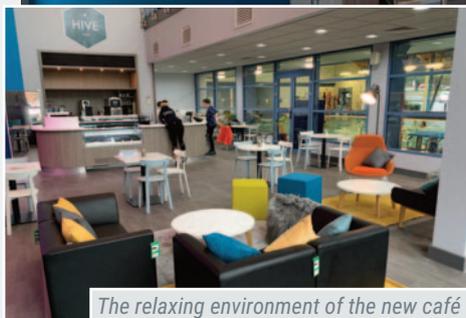
JDDK Project Architect, Stuart Franklin, explained; "Wentworth, like other Active Northumberland-run leisure centres, was originally designed as a family, multi-activity facility, but faced increasing competition from private 'boutique' gyms, who only focus on the more lucrative adult gym users, rather than a broad cross-section of users, accommodated in these local authority centres. The challenge was; how to compete with these gyms while offering the client value for money design solutions?"

At Wentworth, our solution was to concentrate on specific areas: The Foyer has been redesigned to create a welcoming experience, with a new modern way of booking via a self-service Kiosk, "Activator Pod" and a Concierge Desk; to provide a more personal client 'Meet and Greet' service.

We've introduced plants, easy chairs and sofas throughout the café to create a more convivial and relaxing environment for the new healthy living 'Hive' café. The Gym has been fully



The foyer has been redesigned to create a welcoming experience



The relaxing environment of the new café

refurbished and equipment renewed with state-of-the-art interactive machines, utilising large format digital projectors and colour-change LED lighting to provide a fully "immersive experience"; with the final result being an attractive and innovative solution, to provide a gym to rival the current private gym competitors.

Leanne Beattie, Strategic Estates and Community Assets Manager for Active Northumberland, added,

"The completion of the final product at Wentworth has surpassed all of our expectations. Not only does it present a real wow factor from the second our customers enter the building, it also presents us with a blueprint to address the future challenges in meeting the increasing expectations of our customers to deliver excellent service and modern up-to date health and wellness experiences. Working with Stuart and the team at JDDK has allowed us to transform our vision into a reality and the feedback from our customers, both existing and new could not be more positive."



Sharon Thomas, Director of New Homes Delivery, Thirteen Group, added,

"We are really excited to be working with JDDK to deliver this landmark scheme for us. We have done a lot of work in designing a new range of housetypes which JDDK have skilfully adapted to fit in the thriving town of Sowerby. The development is also key to Thirteen developing a fruitful working relationship with Hambleton District Council."

SENSE OF PLACE CENTRAL TO SOWERBY 100% AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Hambleton District Council have given a resolution to grant planning permission, subject to addressing LLFA (Lead Local Flood Authority) comments and agreeing the s106, to the 100% affordable housing scheme at Sowerby Gateway that we have designed on behalf of Thirteen Housing Group. The development will see the construction of 97 affordable homes, 38 of which will be shared ownership with the remaining 59 for affordable rent.

Our brief was for a high quality scheme which would not just meet the shortfall of affordable housing at Sowerby Gateway, but would be an exemplar of design quality and present a flagship scheme for affordable housing, ensuring a highly desirable development.

To achieve this we have studied the characteristics of nearby Sowerby village, so that we can recreate the all important "sense of place" that gives the village its distinct character JDDK Principal Architect, Alison Thornton-Sykes, explained, "The site is bounded by the main East Coast rail line to the

west and new private housing to the east with open fields to the north and south and, whilst not directly adjacent to Sowerby village centre, its proximity provides a strong architectural character which we wanted to emulate, drawing the essence of the existing buildings and their setting into the new development.

"The scheme proposes a tree-lined 'Green Spine' characteristic of a 'village green' feature with terraced housing of different sizes and designs to suit varying needs. On the main street, the majority of homes are set back from the road, separated by soft landscaping and communal access drives, but at the entrance to the development, the buildings are angled close to the road to define a gateway. Off this main road, side streets are staggered to create a hierarchy of routes with sheltered communal garden spaces in addition to private gardens.

"One of the priorities with this scheme was to create an exemplar and flagship scheme of high quality social housing that is as good as the adjacent private developments. Although of a consistent style to create a cohesive development, there are nine designs of homes,

several of which have individual variations to create focal points and interesting compositions. The development is a contemporary twist on the traditional scale and form of existing dwellings within Sowerby. The homes are also designed to be a 10% improvement on existing Building Regulations thermal performance, whilst the gardens and communal soft planting areas have been designed to be havens of eco-diversity."



NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY PARTNERING

We're delighted to announce that we are partnering with Newcastle University's School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape. We are collaborating with Dr Neveen Hamza, Senior Lecturer in Architecture, to develop the brief and tutor a 3rd year design project focusing on a care facility for people living with dementia.

This will include setting the brief and field trips to exemplary schemes in the UK and Germany.

This is a live project running in parallel to a research project funded by the Wellcome Trust between the School and the NHS to determine the effect of the built environment on agitation levels in people living with dementia.

The shared communal gardens



JDDK RESPONDS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS



At JDDK Architects, we have been keenly interested in sustainable design for most of our 30 year history. However, business as usual is no longer sufficient. The climate crisis and the planet's biodiversity loss both threaten our way of life. Individuals and businesses all now have a responsibility to work together towards a better future.

The built environment contributes 40% of the UK's total carbon footprint. Clients, design professionals and contractors must come together to deliver buildings with a reduced impact on the environment. Our industry already has the technology to do this, but we need the will and commitment to make a difference.

At JDDK we recognise the important role that architects have to play in shaping a low carbon future, and that is why we have been developing our new sustainability strategy since the beginning of the year. To be launched soon, we're calling it "20:20 A vision for our future".

Watch this space.



NEW JDDK SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY TO LAUNCH SOON

Our new strategy is organised around three strands which will guide our work and our business in the coming years

KNOWLEDGE



We will seek to embed the principles of sustainable design into every project. We will continue to ensure our staff are empowered to have knowledgeable conversations with clients, consultants and contractors about sustainable design and delivery.

We will provide training for our technical staff to ensure they can provide the skills our clients need, including in Passivhaus design.

BUSINESS



We believe it's vital to carry out our day-to-day business operations in as sustainable a manner as we can. We are currently measuring our baseline carbon footprint and will set a bold target to bring this to zero.

We will reduce the emissions of our business travel by supporting low carbon transport for our staff such as cycling and electric vehicles. We will reduce our consumption of water and the waste that we generate.

LEADERSHIP



Shaping our business to be greener, and creating sustainable buildings, won't be enough on its own. The whole construction industry must embrace the change needed to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Therefore, we will collaborate with our colleagues to make a positive impact on our supply chain and the broader industry. We will also share the knowledge and experience that we develop along our own journey.

RECENT JDDK PROJECTS WITH SUSTAINABLE PRINCIPLES



Bewsing House, Nunnykirk



Moor Croft, Longframlington

SENSITIVE RETROFIT

The conversion of this stable block to a Grade I listed hall required the sensitive application of insulation to the solid stone walls to ensure the fabric can continue to breathe.

We specified natural wood fibre and lime insulations to ensure embedded timbers aren't vulnerable to excessive moisture. The refurbished building, now providing holiday accommodation, is heated with an air source heat pump, and new timber windows maximise natural light to the interiors.

LOW CARBON HOME

We worked with our self-build clients to develop a 'fabric first' approach to energy efficiency.

The timber frame home's insulation, triple glazing and airtight measures all minimise the space heating demand, and a Mechanical Heat Recovery and Ventilation system provides fresh air throughout. Heat is provided by a Ground Source Heat Pump and Photovoltaic Panels generate almost all of the home's electricity needs.



Rivergreen Centre St. Mary's

SUPER INSULATED OFFICE

The brief from our client included ambitious energy use and CO2 emission targets which we achieved through orientation and high levels of insulation in the walls, floor and roof.

Large triple-glazed windows provide daylight throughout the offices, but a colonnade with climbing plants prevents overheating.

The 1,100m² office can be heated with a single domestic-sized gas boiler.

"JDDK understood the client brief from the outset for a strong preference for fabric first approach to achieve long term environmental sustainable project. We agreed with JDDK that a highly insulated building way above building regulation requirements was the most cost effective solution in achieving a sustainable office development. We are currently monitoring energy usage and are achieving hugely successful results"

Peter Candler, Managing Director of Rivergreen Developments Ltd.

ALL OR NOTHING?

It's easy to think that the climate crisis is too big to be solved with just one project. There is also a common misconception that sustainable design is expensive.

Whilst some technologies can be costly, a lot can be achieved by careful design and delivery. Taking a 'fabric first' approach to energy efficiency can save money as well as carbon emissions over a building's lifespan. A lot can be achieved by making small changes to a building's design. It's not 'All or Nothing.' JDDK can help to deliver projects which are as sustainable as possible within a client's budget and every project can make a difference.

RIBA 2030 CHALLENGE



In June the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) voted to join the global declaration of an environment and climate emergency.

The climate emergency demands urgent action and leadership by architects and the wider construction industry. Now, putting words in action, the RIBA has developed its 2030 Climate Challenge, a new initiative setting targets for practices to adopt to reduce operational energy, embodied carbon and potable water. As an RIBA Chartered Practice, JDDK have signed up to the challenge as part of our emerging sustainability strategy.

EVOLVING STANDARDS

When the 1965 building regulations were published, they only required housebuilders to install 25mm of loft insulation and the external wall cavities could be left empty. How things have changed!

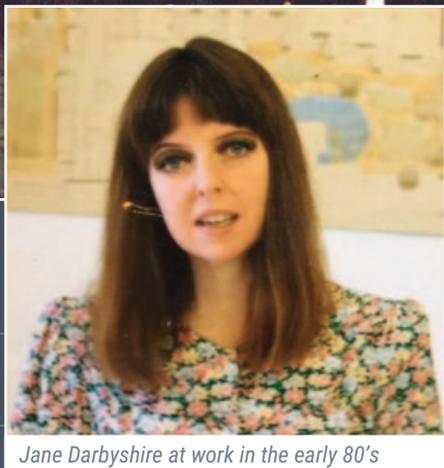
It's now usual for roofs to have 450mm of loft insulation whilst cavities are typically fitted with 150mm of insulation. Even this isn't enough. To achieve the levels of energy efficiency that we need to meet the UK's carbon targets, we will need cavity walls fitted with 300mm of insulation.

At our recently opened office building in Stannington, JDDK used this much insulation along with carbon fibre wall ties to keep the heating demand so low that this 1,100 m² building is warmed with just one domestic-sized gas boiler. The building was delivered at a comparable cost to a standard office building, but it will save on carbon emissions for years to come.

JANE DARBYSHIRE ON ETHEL DAY



Jane, her family and the practice outside Buckingham Palace after receiving her OBE in 1994



Jane Darbyshire at work in the early 80's

As part of the RIBA's Ethel Day 2019 celebrations, the RIBA were sharing stories of women throughout history whose contribution to architecture may not be well known. We were delighted in June that RIBA North East chose to focus on our very own Jane Darbyshire.

Now retired, Jane's design and work ethos has become embedded in our practice and remains at the core of how we manage our business and approach to work today.

Here, she reveals the principles of her approach to architecture.

"My approach to architecture has been shaped by three main influences: the Arts and Crafts movement, traditional Japanese architecture, and Frank Lloyd Wright, his work and his writings.

Nikolaus Pevsner wrote that Architecture should reflect 'The creative energy of this world in which we live and work, a world of science and technology, of speed and danger, of hard struggle and no personal security', but I believe that faced with such a world, the human need for a secure anchor, for a form of shelter that is familiar, secure and understandable is greater than ever. That is not to exclude drama; excitement and drama can have a place in uplifting the spirit, but architecture resulting from indulgent self-expression of the architect alienates rather than communicates.

I believe that we should seek to achieve what the great Arts and Crafts architect, Charles Voysey, described as 'Enduring Qualities': those elements

which enable a building to communicate with its users and I believe that they are as valid today as they were then.

SENSE OF PLACE

Respect of local styles and characteristics does not entail the mindless imitation of regional features, rather the progression and development of local style devising new forms of expression which respect the past in spirit only.

Understanding of the structure and materials that shape one's environment

Ruskin wrote 'That building will generally be the noblest, which to an intelligent eye discovers the great secrets of its structure, as an original form does, although from a careless observer they may be concealed'.

ORNAMENT

A very unfashionable word I know, but understood not only by Ruskin and Morris but also by Frank Lloyd Wright. Not only does ornament help to give buildings an added dimension of scale and interest at close quarters it is also another way in which architecture can communicate with its users.

RELATIONSHIP TO LANDSCAPE

Japanese Architecture demonstrates that architecture and landscape are inseparable elements – nature and buildings, the two should be in complete harmony, it is impossible to think of one without the other.

ARCHITECTURAL 'STYLE'

This should evolve out of the needs of the User and the Brief. It should be an end result, not a starting point.

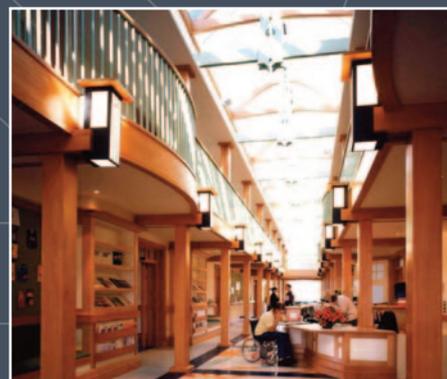
My belief is that successful architecture demands on the part of the architect a great deal of humility and most importantly a feeling of being part of the community for whom one is privileged to design."



Jane Darbyshire & David Kendall at the JDDK 30th Birthday Party 2017



Marie Curie Centre in Newcastle upon Tyne, a hospice designed to feel like a comfortable country house whilst offering the most advanced techniques in palliative care, completed in 1995



The Pioneering Care Partnership Centre at Newton Aycliffe completed in 1999 provides a base to support vulnerable people in the community.

MAKING A LITTLE GO A LONG WAY

Construction work is now complete at All Saints Church in Langley Park, marking the end of a project which had started with a feasibility study in 2008.

The challenge faced by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) was similar to many other churches across the country – with a relatively small budget, how could they improve the community facilities within the Church?

JDDK Director and Project Architect, Adam Vaughan, explained the scheme, “The rear of the Church’s Nave was already used for community functions but these had developed over the years in an ad-hoc manner, suffered from lack of storage space and accessible facilities and the space had become far from ideal.”

“Our original feasibility study in 2008, offered costed options and we were delighted when the PPC came back to us after fundraising asking for more detailed proposals.”

The scheme has resulted in a fully accessible WC and tea point concealed from people entering the Church by a timber paneled screen wall with an upgraded community space. With the whole project coming in at under £60,000, the scheme has transformed the Nave to create an attractive, and already, well-used facility.

The new Tea Point can be concealed or open to the Church



Carved lettering on the wood panelling



Steven Bradley, project lead for the church, commented,

“The scheme has transformed the community area of the Church in a very sensitive manner which has met with approval from both our regular worshippers and those that use the facilities for community purposes – we’re delighted with the result that Adam and the JDDK team have produced and it’s already very well used!”

In September we applied to Northumberland County Council for planning permission on behalf of a private client for a striking four bedroom detached home in the Fulbeck area of Morpeth.

FULBECK PLANNING APPLICATION

The two storey design, to be constructed on the site of an existing 1970’s detached property, will provide its owners with an unique home set in mature woodland but enjoying superb views to the south over Morpeth.

JDDK Project Architect, Alison Thornton-Sykes, explained the design, “All the plots here feature individual designs with a range of 1970’s styles and materials, and our application is a response to the gentle slope of the site with the home oriented to take maximum advantage of natural sunlight and the outstanding views through the woodland.”

The design is dominated by the octagonal two storey corner ‘Dovecote’ structure on which the remainder of the house pivots and which provides a stunning extra height lounge with the master bedroom above it also enjoying a private balcony. A double height entrance hall is overlooked by a minstrel gallery to the first floor, off which the four bedrooms and family bathroom are accessed. The ground floor includes an integral double garage with workshop area, home office, open plan kitchen and a separate sunroom/dining area.



A CGI of the proposed detached home in Fulbeck, Morpeth.

The design proposes traditional stone construction with a slate roof apart from the sun lounge/dining area which will feature a zinc roof.

Alison continued, “These are very private homes set in their own landscaped gardens and our design retains all the existing mature trees. The Dovecote is actually based on a feature in one of our private house schemes from 2008 which our client, Ian Askew, had seen near Corbridge and wished to incorporate a similar idea into his

Ian Askew added,

“Alison and the team at JDDK did a wonderful job in translating our outline vision into a stunning home design that compliments the beautiful natural setting of the site.”

own home. It is the focal point of the design from which the rest of the house flows.”

ACROSS THE SEA, BUT NOT FAR AWAY

In recent years we have enjoyed whole office trips to Malmo, Stockholm, Edinburgh and Madrid. Our latest destination in June was Belfast and the breathtaking North Antrim coast.

With our own success in visitor centres, the £18.5m Giant's Causeway Visitor's Centre was high on our bucket list and the glass walls, basalt columns and superb interior certainly didn't disappoint.

From there it was onto Carrickfergus Castle, the obligatory visit to the Dark Hedges, a superb avenue of ancient beech trees that featured in many episodes of Game of Thrones, and finished off the day with a visit to Bushmills Distillery.



The JDDK Belfast Tour at The Dark Hedges

Up bright-eyed and bushy tailed (well, some of us...) the next morning for a walking tour of Belfast Architecture, including the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) and the magnificent Botanic Gardens before ending the day with pizzas and the odd beer at Sunflowers pub.

What a wonderful city! We'll be back.

PEOPLE'S PASSIONS KAREN'S PERFECT PITCH



Karen and Nathan Rapley (thumbs up) at Blaydon RFC

Our Accounts Manager, Karen Rapley, was a great fan of running before having her family, but with an ex-rugby player husband and a rugby playing son, it was almost inevitable the game with the odd-shaped ball would become her passion!

Karen explained, "I'd always loved watching rugby – it was so much more exciting and honest than football to my mind with players showing incredible skill and passion rather than pulling shirts and diving! My husband, Mark, used to play and is coming back to coaching after injuries, but it was only when our son, Nathan, started to play for Blaydon that I really got into it. He's hooker for the U15 team and really enjoys it and there's a lovely social side to the club also.

"When I saw they were starting a Parents & Children Touch Rugby, it seemed an ideal opportunity to get fit again and have some fun and I love it now – we train once a week at the club.

"Women's rugby is growing incredibly and I'd urge anyone to find a club and give it a go!"

WELCOME

...to Karen Rapley, who joins us as Accounts Manager, having worked in a similar post for many years in Durham. Married with two children, Karen and her family live in Sunnyside. She



commented, "I felt I was in a rut in my previous job, but working at JDDK is great – it's a very challenging position where I get a lot of responsibility and it's really interesting working with the architects."

...to Lee Xin Lau, who joins as Architectural Assistant. Originally from Malaysia, Lee Xin recently completed her Masters Degree at Northumbria University. With a particular interest in housing, Lee Xin added, "JDDK is a very friendly company with a great working environment and very skilled people working on really interesting projects."



CONGRATULATIONS...

...to St Mary's Inn at Stanington, named as the best in the North East at the 2019 National Pub & Bar Awards - this conversion of the former Administration Building of St Mary's Hospital was designed and delivered by ourselves in November 2014.

...to The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre which welcomed its 250,000th visitor on April 1st, less than two years after opening its doors to the public and more than 10 months ahead of target.

...to the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre for winning the Sustainable Development of The Year Award at September's East Midlands Property Awards. This will be the centre's sixth award, including prestigious RIBA and RICS regional awards.

...to our own Olie Hopwood on the successful completion of his Part 3 exams meaning he will soon be registering as a fully qualified Architect. Olie's climbing skills, however, proved no match for a sneaky 5 inch pavement that tripped him up during a night of celebrating the last exam, with a resulting broken metatarsal – when we said "break a leg" Olie, we didn't mean it literally!



Olie Hopwood

ABS #Time2Sketch

The therapeutic benefits of artistic creativity have long been recognised so we were delighted to take part in the Architects Benevolent Society's #Time2Sketch initiative where architects were invited to take an hour out of their day on September 20th to produce a sketch on Health and Wellbeing.

The Architects Benevolent Society is a charity dedicated to supporting those working in the wider architectural professions and their families in times of need. The ABS asked for a £5 donation per entry and the practice donated the same to raise money for a great cause.

ABS TimeToSketch.jpg Sketching therapy!



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