

BLUE SQUARE

SUMMER 2014 ~ ISSUE 10



30th BIRTHDAY SPECIAL EDITION

Gary Howcroft, Associate Director in the Wakefield office reminisces as our longest serving employee

I clearly remember the day when I turned up for the interview with John Harris with him peering over his glasses and puffing on a pipe telling me to get to know the Building Regs inside out; little did I know that he knew less than me on that subject. He always came over as a character and not to be messed with, and I think that this attitude still prevails as part of the company ethos even today.

John as always was impatient and asked me to start immediately, luckily for me my employer at the time had found out about the interview (I suspect John) and made me redundant straight away. Eventually after minimal discussions, I started in Wakefield on 1st May 1986. The office was basic, three rooms adjacent to Wakefield Station and a total of six staff. Expansion meant knocking a wall or two down ourselves over a weekend (I am not sure if we ever got paid for this come to think of it).

My first project was B&Q in Bury and I am still working with them to this day. In those days it was with developers such as Marshalls and Consolidated Property Group, today we still work with these clients but now have a formal partnering arrangement with B&Q as well as other retailers that we have picked up over the years.

That first summer with John Harris Design Partnership (as it was called in those days) was an eye opener, projects

were dealt with quickly and with no fuss, and I was soon running a long succession of retail schemes at the age of 25. Mike Schorah joined as a year out student during my first summer with the practice and continued part time during his subsequent time on the Diploma course. Indeed we all joined in and helped on his final projects at College, obviously only when John was not around.

When John was in the office; which was maybe once or twice a week, he would come in all guns blazing and god help you if your work was not up to scratch. You were handed an envelope and escorted off the premises forthwith. Mike and both experienced driving a tearful ex member of staff home car-less. Lawyers would have a field day now.

Work and staff numbers increased and we moved to South Parade and then St. John's North. In this period we picked up one of the first Aldi appointments in the UK acting as Architects and Project Managers for the Yorkshire region. This started a major expansion which eventually had me and Mike banished to a new office in Newport Pagnell where we spent an interesting year of our working lives setting up a new Aldi region before Gary Humphreys joined and we were able to return to Yorkshire.

Paul Mitchell joined John during this period which contributed to more growth and diversity of projects and further expansion with offices in Manchester and Reading. This brought stability and diversity to the business which has benefited us particularly in these recent difficult times.

I have enjoyed all my time here, as have many others. I am back working with Aldi in the Yorkshire region and still work with B&Q on their refit programme. I am not the only long serving member and some have returned to the fold after years away. There are too many highlights to mention, but fancy cars often feature. I particularly remember being driven by John Harris in his bright red Ferrari down the York Road in Leeds at 140mph. He was as proud as punch with the car and as with many of his preferences; the liking for cars has been inherited by Paul and Mike.

John is still alive and kicking and full of the usual Harris spirit, I am in regular contact but try to keep him more grounded on the cars.

Where have the last 28 years gone?



Gary Howcroft, Associate Director



THE HARRIS PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS

John in his first Ferrari



1984
John Harris sets up business at 122 Westgate

Michael Schorah aged 20



1986
Michael Schorah joins the practice

1991
Harris appointed for first Aldi Region



1994
Practice opens office in Newport Pagnell

1997
First central Leeds office building completed for Addleshaws



Addleshaw Goddard Offices, Leeds



1999
Practice opens Manchester office

2003
Wakefield office moves to 2 St Johns North then quickly expands and acquires numbers 4 and 6.

Practice acquires Andrews Kalik and Reading office

2004
Practice enters AJ Top 100



David McKnight



2007
Company restructured, group board formed; Paul Mitchell, Mike Schorah, Gary Humphreys, Nick Charlesworth

2008
David McKnight moves to group board



The Oasis Dining Quarter

2011
The Oasis Dining Quarter Meadowhall is completed

2012
Practice secures the Haribo contract to build their new £40m state of the art production facility in Normanton



Haribo, Normanton

1984

2000

2014

Michael Schorah, John Harris & Paul Mitchell



Milton Keynes Office acquired 1994

Reading Office acquired 2003



2 St Johns North, Wakefield

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THP



B&Q Barrow in Furness



1990

1987
Our first supermarket was Gateway Immingham for Limes Developments Ltd

1989
Harris moves to 12 South Parade

Gary Howcroft 1986

1984
Our first completed building was B&Q Barrow in Furness for Commercial Development Projects Ltd

12 South Parade



24 St. Johns North

1992
Paul Mitchell joins as director
Practice moves to 24 St. Johns North



Gary Humphreys

2000
Gary Humphreys becomes a Director

Nick Charlesworth joins the practice

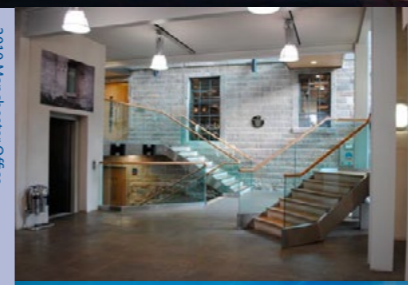
2001
John Harris retires



Nick Charlesworth

1997
Gary Humphreys Joins the practice

2010 Manchester Office



Broad Street, Halifax



2010

2010
Michael Schorah becomes Managing Director

Manchester office moves to Carvers Warehouse, Dale Street

2011
First major town centre development completed at Broad Street, Halifax

2013
James Richmond moves to group board

2014
Gary Howcroft celebrates his 28th year with practice



James Richmond

IMPLEMENTING THE MASTERPLAN OF TASIS THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN ENGLAND



This summer sees the completion of the sixth phase of a £30m extension programme to this renowned Surrey Independent School with the opening of a twenty-six bed dormitory accommodation with two faculty apartments set in the middle of the Listed Building campus.

On the completion of this project we will have expanded the capacity of this premier education centre in the village of Thorpe which provides American and international schooling by 30%. Previous phases have included a multi-purpose hall, changing rooms and dance studios, health centre, faculty accommodation, teaching labs, library and a modern science teaching facility. Up and coming phases to the campus include existing dormitory refurbishments, additional faculty apartments, music lab and swimming pool.

This will be our 14th year working with the School with a contract expenditure of over £20m. The facilities that have been generated have put TASIS as one of the top international schools in the Country.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Carl Braim who has become an Associate Director in the Wakefield office, Lee Brewer and David Evans who have both become Directors of the practice and Simon Waterhouse and Peter Hoole from the Manchester Office who have become Associates.

PROJECTS ON SITE - THE HIGHLIGHTS

WAKEFIELD



Clifton Moor, York, 72,2500ft² new build retail terrace.
Client - British Land (Clifton Moor LTD),
Contractor - Lindum, Scheduled Completion - June 2014

MILTON KEYNES



Tesco foodstore Swaffham, Client - Millngate Swaffham Ltd,
Contractor - Interserve Construction Ltd
Scheduled Completion - July 2014

MATT ANDREWS RETIREMENT

We say goodbye to Matt Andrews after 40 Years in Architecture. Matt Andrews founder partner of Andrews Kalik Associates of which later became part of the Harris Partnership after a company merger over 10 years ago has decided to retire.

Matt and his business partner Stojan Kalik set up Andrews Kalik Associates in 1978 and was greatly influential of many buildings in the Thames Valley region and created a strong and well regarded practice, this being a key reason for the Harris Partnership to acquire the business.

Matt has a keen interest in sailing and has built several homes for himself and his family, he is also in the process of building his second boat so I am sure he will have a very busy and active retirement matching his productive work life.

He will be dearly missed by all the staff in the practice.

BABY BROADHEAD

Congratulations to Daniel Broadhead on the birth of his first child Darcie Rose who was born on 21st April weighing 8lb 3.



NEW CONCEPT JAGUAR DEALERSHIP FOR TUNBRIDGE WELLS

The Wakefield office have recently submitted a planning application for a new concept Jaguar car dealership on Longfield Road in Tunbridge Wells.

Tarncourt Developments Ltd and Tarncourt Construction Ltd instructed The Harris Partnership to develop a site adjacent to Cameron's Jiskoot Technology Centre which was designed and completed by the Practice in 2012.

The 20,000sqft building covers two storeys with roof top parking and has been designed in close consultation with Jaguar themselves and reflects their corporate brand and presence in the market.

The re-development will revitalise a currently disused brownfield site, providing another contemporary addition to the streetscape built to a high specification.

PROJECTS ON SITE - THE HIGHLIGHTS

MANCHESTER



M&S foodstore Gosforth, Client - Worthington Properties,
Contractor - Worthington Construction
Scheduled Completion - September 2014

READING



TASIS, Surrey, sixth phase of a £30m extension programme,
Client - TASIS The American School in England
Scheduled Completion - August 2014

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