

insite



WILLIAM
DAVIS
HOMES

WILLIAM DAVIS HOMES MAGAZINE 2023



**HB5
stars**

8 years in a row

3



**Going
West**

New office launches

11



**Apprentice
Employer
of Choice**

26



**Pulling
together**

Dragon boat winners!

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The Insite editorial team would like to thank everyone for getting involved and contributing to this edition of our company magazine. insite@williamdavis.co.uk

Our magazine is printed on paper from sustainable forests.



A warm welcome!

Welcome to this bumper edition of Insite, our annual 'snapshot' of the company and the people making our business a success.

At the time of publication, it would be fair to say that the housing market is going through a period of uncertainty. Predicting what the next six months will be like is very difficult, given the economic problems the country is facing.

However, despite all the bad news, I'm pleased to report there are still serious buyers around for our houses and although affordability is a big issue, people still want and need to move house.

The last few years have been unusual for the housing market and in my view, we are now returning to a more typical pattern of trading, which we need to adapt to.

It's on everyone's shoulders to make sure our houses are finished to the highest standard and presented in the best possible way, reflecting the quality and reliability of the William Davis brand. This will serve us well in a slightly harder market, keeping us at the top of our game by delivering new homes we can all be proud of. You'll see new roles and faces in this issue – including members of the board – and I know you'll make them all welcome as they take up their careers with us. Our company has a strong culture of a loyal and long serving workforce – see Silver Service, page 18 – which is something to celebrate.

We've always had a presence in the West Midlands and launching a new office here is already starting to pay dividends. We're putting more

investment into this standalone division of the company, focusing on acquiring land and new sites. This will give us a valuable foothold, ensuring we make the most of new opportunities when they arise.

Looking through the magazine, I'm pleased to see there's much here to demonstrate our teamwork – both on and offsite. Achieving HBF 5-star status eight years in a row is excellent and news our apprentice electricians, Demi Whitehead and Felicity Mae Monks, came first and runner-up respectively in their Skill Build heat is also to be applauded – see page 25.

We've also had success in our 'offsite' pursuits. Last year we won Nottingham's Dragon Boat Race, and just recently came 1st and 2nd in this year's event with what was a very tight finish – read the report and see what others have been up to on pages 38 and 39. While 32 members of our team – from all areas of the business – undertook the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, raising an incredible £5k for The Myton Hospice – see page 35.



We've achieved HBF 5-Star status eight years in a row. Well done everyone!



Of course, we're well aware the housing industry is facing challenges – planning issues and new building regulations for example – but one thing is certain, the country needs new housing and every year that demand increases.

So, let's keep doing what we do best, working together as a team and continuing to build for the future.

“Thank you all for playing your part.”

Guy Higgins
Managing Director



Continuing to invest in new sites, landscaping and street scenes.

Introducing William Davis Homes executive directors ...

Left to right: **Matt Colloby**, land director for the West Midlands. Matt and his team are commissioned with land acquisition and planning permissions; **David Dodge**, previously development director was promoted to operations director earlier this year. David's role is to drive the business performance with particular emphasis on efficiency and customer service. **Mark Waplington** is commercial director and is responsible for surveying and procurement. **Sarah Whetton** is group land director, working with land & planning teams throughout the business. **Mark Chettleburgh** is production director, Mark and his team keep the sites operating. **Richard Irons** is chief financial officer. His role is to help the business grow sustainably and efficiently. **Guy Higgins** is our managing director.



A Great Achievement!

Financial Overview

We had a good year in 2022/23 but have faced a more challenging market as the uncertainty in the wider economy continues. Despite the challenging headwinds from high inflation and rising interest rates we hit our revised forecasts and completed on 405 homes (303 private, 102 affordable), delivered revenues of £130m and operating profits of £11m in the year to May 2023. This is a great achievement given the unpredictability of the housing market.

Whilst the trading backdrop has become more demanding, the business has continued to invest in land opportunities for the future and successfully managed build rates and resources to match periods of lower sales. We therefore head into 2023/24 in a good position with healthy cash reserves, and a strong forward order book comparable to previous years.

As the tougher market conditions continue, the need to focus on quality and customer service is even greater, as we compete for demand and ensure we maximise prices in what is currently a 'buyers' market'. Operationally, the ongoing focus around efficiency, cost control and minimising waste remain the priorities and these areas will form the basis of our objectives for 2023/24.

Looking ahead, we remain optimistic in achieving our planned long-term growth targets and further expansion across the East Midlands and into the West Midlands. Shorter term, in the current economic environment, we remain more cautious and are targeting a similar level of completions in 2023/24 whilst also commencing new developments at Garendon and Warwick to provide continuity from other completing sites.

Digital Journey

One of the key objectives for the business is to improve how efficiently we conduct our activities both at site level and at Head Office. Information Technology (IT) plays a key role in this, and we will be investing in this area and aspiring to further drive the benefits from our systems in 2023/24. The business needs to continue its digital journey in sales, areas of production and back office to drive these benefits.

During 2023/24 we will be looking for areas across the business where we can better utilise IT and gain value from our systems to remove manual processes, automate information flow and reporting, enabling us to share information and work more collaboratively.

As we monitor, support and control the different areas of the business we need to have clear measures and KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) that are reported in real time, automated and delivered through dashboards.



Richard Irons, chief financial officer.

Work has already started in this area, and it is our strategy to move to 'Cloud' based systems in the future. Over the next two years all our systems will move to the 'Cloud' to improve accessibility, availability and security. For those that use Microsoft Office and emails, this transition has already started, and we will soon have access to the latest Microsoft suite of products including Teams, OneDrive and SharePoint for improved file sharing and team working.

Richard Irons
Chief Financial Officer

A New Role for David Dodge

Formerly our development director, **David Dodge** has been promoted to the new role of operations director, overseeing commercial, sales, customer service and production functions.

He told Insite:

"As the company continues to improve performance, it's my job to see the bigger picture and help drive the business forward, by focusing on the way different departments operate, and critically how they work together, delivering best practice to achieve the best results we can. We must also take into account changes to building regulations and eco-targets, including updating working practices and new technologies.

"Businesses are always facing challenges, whether this is in

demand, availability of resources or changes in legislation. What we cannot afford to do, is lose sight of what is important and that is our customer, whether a first-time buyer, an expanding family or someone who is a downsizer, and the quality of the home that we build for them."

While there's much to be proud of – excellent customer service, superior product & standard of build and a highly skilled team – David stresses no business can stand still, and part of his job is to develop strategies and policies to protect the William Davis brand going forward.

"We must always build safely, and we want to always be recognised for the quality and heritage of the William Davis brand,

whilst continuing to adapt to a changing marketplace. The single greatest asset that we have is our people, their knowledge and commitment to help keep improving our performance. As the horses on our logo symbolise, we'll do this by continuing to pull together, moving forward as a team with the same shared goals."



“Everyone who works for or is involved with William Davis Homes should visit one of our new showhomes and see just what a great product we present to the home buying public. The quality is outstanding, the developments are exceptional, and nothing demonstrates the ‘William Davis’ brand better than our new homes, it’s what we do better than anyone else. Visit one this weekend, and don’t forget our refer a friend scheme see page 31. I’d value your feedback and observations so feel free to get in touch! david.dodge@williamdavis.co.uk.”

David Dodge, operations director.

Making a Mark!

Updates from production director, **Mark Chettleburgh** and commercial director, **Mark Waplington**.

“The revised building regulations of 2023, and subsequently in 2025, are moving housebuilding into a new era. Specifically focusing on lowering carbon emissions, these regulations will require the introduction of new technologies, specifications, installations and management methods; a journey that we are just beginning.

Our development at Sutton Bonington incorporates several of these new technologies, which is helping to accelerate our knowledge, and is giving us an early head start. As implementation of these technologies increases across the industry, this will undoubtedly lead to the further development of existing methods, and introduction of new alternatives. It is vital that we keep abreast of these advances, and ensure that we incorporate methods that deliver commerciality, and also contribute positively to delivering the quality homes that our customers expect.”

Mark Waplington



Commercial Director, Mark Waplington & Production Director, Mark Chettleburgh

“I’m pleased to report all sites are busy with teams concentrating on both homes for sale and affordable allocations, as we continue to build out in line with rate of sales. Since the last issue of Insite, we’ve successfully combined phases at Buttercup Fields, launching new phases at both Radcliffe on Trent and Market Harborough, and are looking forward to starting Garendon in Loughborough early next year.

Of course, both the introduction of new building regulations plus the New Homes Quality Board will present challenges for the whole industry. But I’m sure that by staying focused and working together as a tight team, we will embrace and overcome these challenges, continuing to maintain our quality of build and therefore our success.”

Mark Chettleburgh

Long-term strategy continues

Sarah Whetton is new group land director

Sarah Whetton, who has more than 30 years’ experience in housebuilding – much of that at executive level – has recently been made group land director.

“With my role now more expansive – being responsible for land in the East Midlands and overseeing and working closely with the West Midlands team – I’ll be in the best position to help deliver a successful long-term land strategy for the company. This means targeting and acquiring the right opportunities at the right time for the business.” Sarah told Insite.

“And as we go to press, I’m really pleased to announce we have successfully secured planning approvals on two schemes. Continuing our successful Skylarks development in Chesterfield, our application for a further 500 homes alongside a local centre and land reserved for a primary school at Dunston Road has been approved.

“We have also just been granted consent for 56 new homes in the sought after village of Hathern in Leicestershire, providing a good housing mix and affordable homes for the area.



Sarah Whetton, group land director

“This is all really good news, as we all appreciate land with planning consent in good locations is in high demand. We are lucky that our land bank is in good order, with sites in excellent locations and many years supply for the future.”

Sarah concluded.

Welcome to our annual showcase of developments currently under construction throughout the Midlands.

From Chesterfield in the north to Rugby in the south, these pages highlight our 11 live sites and the team who build and sell our beautiful 5 star homes.

Thorpebury in the Limes

Thurmaston, Leicestershire



Left to right: Alfie Busby, Aiden Busby, Liam McManus, Finley Gregory, Ashley Pick, site manager Paul Dolman, sales consultant Naomi Sarfaty-Wells, Nathan West, Rob Brewin, Alex Seymour and Ben Murfin.

Site manager, Paul Dolman told Insite: “With new gangs of bricklayers starting, we’re pushing on with the build programme and sales are picking up too. Dan Claypole has joined as trainee assistant site manager, helping strengthen the team.”

The Solent & Beamish are available to view at Thorpebury in the Limes. For more information contact Naomi Sarfaty-Wells, Lauren Wilson & Sue Emery on: 07811 88011 / 07811 088012

Prince’s Place

Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire



Back row left to right: Dan Mayes, Tom Concanon, Ben Holmes, Nick Dreijers, Hudson Hollingworth, Roy Guy, Adam Clements, Ash Cox, James Payton, Cieran Elliott, Daz Rayns, Rob Crowe, Sean Holleworth, Kev Holmes, Owen Hennessey, Alex Cox, Jamie Wigginton, Sam Hodgkinson. Front row left to right: Jim Morgan, Jay Easom, site manager, Ross Gibbons, Barry Whittingham, assistant site manager Mark Gaunt and senior sales manager, Sally Brookes.

“Working on Phase 2b and starting on Phase 3 – a further 153 houses – it’s going well here at Radcliffe.” Site manager Ross Gibbons said. “Averaging between 40-50 tradespeople on site, it’s a really good team and sales are going well too.”

The Ashburn & Solent are available to view at Prince’s Place. For more information contact Marie Clitheroe or Patrick Davison on: 0115 6712031/07710 998485

Sales consultants, Sue Emery (pictured) and Lauren Wilson, are also based at Thorpebury in the Limes.



Site Spotlight Meet the Gang!

Keeping things on line ... brickies at Thorpebury; **David King, Dean Masters and Dave Knott**, known as Davo’s No 1 gang – award winners ‘Best in the Country’. (Well, that’s what they told our photographer!)



Lime Gardens

Sutton Bonington, Nottinghamshire

“Lime Gardens is progressing well with the two showhomes attracting lots of visitors.” Site manager Simon Smith told Insite. “Foundations are in and infrastructure complete and our first customers have moved in. All 70 of the homes here are A rated for energy efficiency.”

The Kenilworth & Loxley are available to view at Lime Gardens.

For more information contact: Fay Bullock on: 01509 270148 / 07976 169775



Left to right: Sales consultant Fay Bullock, James Hibbott, Ben Collington, Josh Wallace, Shane Bond, Liam Moss, Ian Reeves, assistant site manager, Duncan Mann, site manager Simon Smith, Tony Hadley, Tom Walker, Andy Hoae and Tony Cantrell.



Back left to right: Senior sales manager Sally Brookes, Ben Morrison, Harvey Moore, Ben Smith, Nigel Taylor, Marco Cunningham, Seb Smith, Tom Duggan, Andy Harriman, Paul Sharpe. Front left to right: Leon Sharpe, Mark Pizer, Nick Hardy, David Ramsden, Callum Hale and Jordan Frost.



Left and right: Assistant site managers, Connor Patterson- Pawley and Dean Gladdin

Honeysuckle Rise

Burton on the Wolds, Leicestershire

“As a fairly new site, we’ve just started handing over our first new homes and the feedback from customers has been positive so far. Our aim is to present the houses and whole site to the highest standards and to deliver the best possible product to our valued customers over the next year or so.

I’m looking forward to the challenge ahead, with a great team on-site and management behind me, we’re well on the way to achieving this.” Said Dean Gladdin, assistant site manager.

The Beamish & Severn are available to view at Honeysuckle Rise. For more information contact Wendy Parry on: 07710 998465



Site Spotlight Meet the Gang!



Gadget Gang – so-called because they make their own gadget tools to help with their brickwork profiles and cut-ups! Pictured: **Nigel Taylor, Paul Sharpe and Callum Hale** – keeping the brickwork sharp at Burton on the Wolds.



Left to right: **Dean Johnson**, **Wayne Hallam**, **Joe Moore**, **Ben Parrot**, **Trevor Dakin**, **Dan Robinson**, **Paul Harrison**, sales consultant **June Hall**, **Neil Malcolm**, **Jude Malcolm**, site manager **Paul Lord**, **Lee Bradley**, **Jason Allen**, **Bradley Hallam**, **Earl Bond**, **Jacob Gregory**, **Shaun Waldron** and **Jordan Fletcher**.

Hastings Green

Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire

"Things are going well on site and we're very busy with between 30 to 50 operatives on site at any one time," said site manager, **Paul Lord**. *"We've a good team here, all committed to working together to achieve our goals."*

The Nene is available to view at Hastings Green.
For more information contact June Hall on: 0116 2162232 / 07710 998494



Left to right: Site manager, **Jonathan Wright**, sales consultant **Bev James Hill**, **Georgio Riozzi**, trainee assistant site manager **Dan Claypole** (now at Thorpebury) and **Oleg Ungureauu**.



Site Spotlight Meet the Gang!

It's a family affair at Kirby Muxloe, where **Wayne Hallam** and his son **Bradley** work as a bricklaying gang together with colleague **Jordan Fletcher**.

Houlton

Rugby, Warwickshire

Site manager, **Jonathan Wright** said: *"The whole team is focusing on building quality homes, which encourages and reassures people they are buying the very best, bearing in mind the current economic climate."*

The Kenilworth & Harborough are available to view at Houlton.
For more information contact Bev James Hill on: 07884 657747

Bricks purchased in the last year:

- 1,280,000 metres (4,199,475 feet)
- 795.4 miles
- From here to Munich



Lace Fields

Ruddington, Nottinghamshire

Assistant site manager **Oliver Robinson** told Insite. *"Things are going really well here at Ruddington, we've a good team and a positive atmosphere. Currently working through a large section of social housing and numerous private plots, which are proving very popular with our customers."*

The Severn & Seaton are available to view at Lace Fields.
For more information contact Kelly Rudkin on: 0115 671032



Back row left to right: Sales consultant **Kelly Rudkin**, **Ferdie Smith**, **Michael Knight**, **Owen Cheeseman**, **Malakai Aldridge**, **James Hibbert**, **Demi Whitehead**, **Adam Wainwright**, **Sian Bradshaw**, **AJ Rayment**, **Dean O'Neill**, **Glen O'Neill**, **Kev Knight**, **Danny Chaplin**, **Kyle Bush**, **Sam Beaver** and **Ben Crumble**. Front row left to right: **Brad Wallis**, **Pat Power**, **Joe Ielapi**, **Jake Hill**, **Mark Lee**, **Pete Fenton**, **Ryan Beech**, **James Falle**, site manager **Justin Morgan** and site manager **Oliver Robinson**.

Wellington Place

Market Harborough, Leicestershire

"Things are going well on-site and we're getting close to the completion of Phase 3 here at Market Harborough." Site manager, **Neil Hurst** told Insite. *"I'm pleased to report, sales are going well too and we're handing over a batch of homes for Longhurst Group this summer. Going forward Phase 4 is due to start very shortly."*

The Ashburn & Severn are available to view at Wellington Place.
For more information contact Sue Gurney & Tracey Scholey on: 01858 437413



Left to right: Site manager **Neil Hurst**, **Wayne Bamber**, **Rob Haddon**, **Dave Stevens**, assistant site manager **Mark Keen**, sales consultant **Tracey Scholey**, **Martin Thomas**, sales consultant **Sue Gurney**, **Craig Warner**, **Isaac Harper**, **Rowan Hamsa**, **Simon Brett** and **Derek Kerfoot**.

Regency Park

Castle Donington, Leicestershire

Site manager, Paul Slack reports. “We’re at full speed here which is great. Currently focusing on a batch of affordable new homes whilst pushing on with our private houses as sales continue to improve. All foundations are in for the rest of the site, so there’s no stopping us. I’m lucky to have a great team who work well together and produce a quality product.”



The Dove & Beamish are available to view at Regency Park.
For more information contact Pamela Hollingworth & Shelley Allen on: 01332 325380

From the back: Gary Bailey, Dan Axten, Jacob Smith, Chris Caplan, Terry Johnson, Addison Walsh Clements, Jack Jordan, Neil Green, Graham Clark, Dan Mangham, Daryl Mountford, Andy Bryant, Tom Jarram, Will Cook, Kieran Law, sales consultant Shelley Allen, Ben Bryant, John Mountford, Kieron Hodges, Dan Martin, sales consultant Pamela Hollingworth, Sam Moore, Paul Cave, Justin Conroy, Lewis Roberts, Jonathan Mountford, Kieron Findley, site manager Paul Slack, Jack Harrison, Steve Mason, Stuart Page, Paul Sharp, Gordon Toft and assistant site manager Shaun Fay.

Site Spotlight
Meet the
Trades Trio

All tooled up! Pictured: **Graham Clark** (joiner), **Tom Jarram** (plumber) and **Jack Harrison** (electrician) – who work together at Castle Donington.

Buttercup Fields

Shepshed, Leicestershire

Site manager, Tom Beighton told Insite. “Since joining Phase 4, the site has progressed really well. We’ve had some great feedback from customers and the whole team is working together to make sure we’re on track for upcoming completions. I’m excited for the months ahead to see the site go from strength to strength.”



The Denwick & Solent are available to view at Buttercup Fields.
For more information contact Wendy Parry & Nicola Hewitt on: 01509 649778 / 07710 998465 / 07970 167932

From the back left to right: **Nigel Dandy**, **Trevor Mee**, **Mark Reynolds**, **Kieren Lewin-Brailsford**, **Jack Widdowson**, **Jack Able**, **Rob Spare**, **James Lewis**, **Louis White**, **Jake Dominy**, **James Gray**, **Oliver Bradshaw**, site manager **Tom Beighton**, assistant site manager **Dean Gladdin** (now at Honeysuckle Rise), sales consultant **Wendy Parry** and sales consultant **Nicola Hewitt**.

Update – Copcut Rise

Droitwich, Worcestershire



As Insite goes to press the latest phase at Copcut Rise – our most westerly site, sitting on the edge of Droitwich in Worcestershire – is coming to an end, with site manager Chris Bojan, undertaking any remaining handovers and making sure the entire development is shipshape. However, we are pleased to report we have more land in the vicinity of our current site and are looking forward to building more beautiful homes for local families to enjoy in the not too distant future. Watch this space!

Skylarks

Chesterfield, Derbyshire

“Now working on Phase 4, with 89 houses to build, the site is looking superb.” Site manager, Martin Bottomley told Insite. “We usually have around 50 people working here, as well as apprentices, including two new bricklayers through links with Chesterfield College, it’s a really great team. Sales are going well, and we rarely have any stock plots which is always good.”

The Severn & Lydden are available to view at Skylarks.
For more information contact Stephanie Holland on: 01246 588661



Left to right, from the back: Sales consultant **Stephanie Holland**, **Andy Parker**, **Lee Irvin**, **Damon Bull**, site manager **Martin Bottomley**, **Steve Barlow**, **Lee Worrall**, **Kieran Moulds**, **John Peck** and assistant site manager **Jimmy Vasudev**. Front Row: **Jacob Keogh**, **Andy Cooper**, **Taylor Hodgskin** and **Nathan Price**.

Site Spotlight
Meet the
Gang!

Trowels at the ready!
The Skylarks Brick Gang are:
Lee Irvin, **Nathan Price**, **Kieran Moulds** and **Damon Bull**.

New office launches in the West Midlands

Matt Colloby, land director West Midlands opens up a new frontier

With over 35 years in the industry, Matt Colloby has been promoted to land director for the west midlands.
Towards the end of 2022, Matt together with planning manager James Chatterton and senior land manager Andrew Morgan, launched the company’s first ever regional division for the West Midlands based in Leamington Spa.

“We already have an excellent reputation here in the West Midlands, having completed successful schemes in Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.” Matt told Insite. “Investing in this new division presents an exciting challenge and new opportunities for the whole company.”

“Since launching, we’ve secured a number of potential new sites, with the prospect of delivering many hundreds of high-quality new homes across the West Midlands.”



Matt Colloby – Land Director West Midlands pictured centre. Left, Planning Manager, **James Chatterton** and right, Senior Land Manager, **Andrew Morgan**.

Welcoming new faces...

William Davis is a champion of careers in construction, so it gives us great pleasure to welcome our newest recruits, adding further skills and experience to our talented team.

Andrew Morgan - Senior Land Manager

With a background in civil engineering and experience working with local authorities and property consultants, Andrew Morgan gained a first-class honours degree in Planning and Development Surveying.

Formally senior land manager for a national builder covering the West & South Midlands, Andrew is senior land manager at our new West Midlands office.

“It was the company’s excellent reputation that appealed to me, plus the rare opportunity to help set up a new regional presence. It presented a really interesting challenge from day one.”

Andrew told Insite.

Further challenges for Andrew include taking on The Three Peaks and the Yorkshire Three Peaks this year. He admits that, coming from Newcastle it’s illegal not to support Newcastle United, so he does that too whenever he can.



Amy Tooley – Accounts Payable Clerk

Amy Tooley from Loughborough is new to the finance team and will be undertaking a variety of tasks in the accounts department to ensure we pay our suppliers on time and keep our accounting records in order.

Amy will begin her finance apprenticeship for the next few years, as we look to develop her skills and competencies.

“I was attracted to the position because the company has an outstanding reputation.” Amy told Insite.

In her spare time Amy loves walking her dog Jax – a Labrador/Akita cross – reading and writing.

Ross Gibbons – Site Manager

Ross Gibbons attributes the company’s reputation for high standards as a major factor attracting him to the role. Progressing his career in the industry over 25 years from trainee site manager, Ross – now leading the team at Prince’s Place – is involved in every element on site.

“From the first bucket dug out of the ground to customers moving in, I try to be out on site most of the time but there’s also plenty of office work and meetings to attend too. It’s the mix of things that I really like about the job.” Ross said.

Off duty, Ross – from Arnold – is a keen Nottingham Forest fan and also has a share in 12 racehorses, with holidays spent in his favourite place, Cornwall.



Shelley Allen - Sales Consultant

Joining the team at Regency Park, is Shelley Allen, bringing a wealth of experience from her time with Tilia Homes, Miller Homes and Davidson Homes.

Although Shelley – who comes from Lutterworth – already has firsthand experience of the quality of a William Davis home, having lived in one herself.

“I just love the build, so when I heard about the vacancy, I had to apply.”

Shelley said. “I really enjoy meeting customers, progressing sales from reservation, through to exchange and completion. I’m thoroughly enjoying my time here, it’s a great company to work for.”

Shelley says helping to look after her three-year-old grandson, keeps her busy on days off.



Duncan Mann - Assistant Site Manager

Having started as an apprentice joiner over 30 years ago, Duncan’s career includes site management with McCarthy Stone and Customer Care with Strata Homes.

Now working with Simon Smith and the team at Lime Gardens, Duncan – who’s from Rushcliffe and a fan of Nottingham Forest – says he likes being involved in all stages of the build and particularly being out on site.

“Stepping back from site manager to assistant, I appreciate how important assistants are and I’m really enjoying my new role.” Duncan said.

A proud father of three daughters which he says are his ‘biggest achievement’ he also loves spending time with his dachshund, Billie and of course, wife Kirstie.



Nathan Burrows - Systems Development Manager

It’s good that Nathan Burrows – our systems development manager – enjoys a busy environment, because he’s the first to admit it’s been full on since taking up his new position.

Nathan, whose background includes manning a call centre support desk; IT technician for an Internet Service Provider and IT manager for an estate agent, says he’s always enjoyed dabbling in software development, now a well established part of his skill set.

“I’m really enjoying my new role. I’ve already been instrumental in developing the functionality of an App to support new building regulation requirements.”

Nathan has joined the company gym and is a member of Birstall Running Club.

...in all the right places!

Kelly Rudkin - Sales Consultant

Having helped her father build their family homes over the years, Kelly Rudkin has a passion for construction.

Originally from Ruddington, Kelly qualified as a specialist florist in London working on celebrity events, before heading to Australia for three years hosting weddings on over 30 beaches.

Back in the UK, Kelly wanted a new challenge and took a position marketing apartments in London's fashionable Shoreditch.

From this, Kelly worked in sales for a volume builder but was keen to return to her East Midlands roots.

“I was really interested when I heard about the position here, I know the company by reputation and was delighted to be given the opportunity to join the team,”

said Kelly, who is now based at Lace Fields.



Alex Suciu – IT Infrastructure Technician

Continuing the expansion of our IT division, Alex Suciu has joined the company as IT Infrastructure Engineer.

He told Insite: “My new role is to help deliver an efficient and effective level of IT support, as well as ensuring that network security and integrity meet the company's requirements.”

Working under Head of IS, Matt Bullock, Alex will also be focusing on recovery, network management, cyber security, and company telecommunications.

Coming from a helpdesk background, Alex, who lives in Leicester, is new to construction, although he had heard of William Davis. His hobbies include computer games, reading – mainly sci-fi/high fantasy books – fixing broken devices and looking after his two cats.

Patrick Davison - Sales Consultant

As Insite goes to press, one of our newest recruits is Patrick Davison. Between working for a national housebuilder many years ago and his new role with us, Patrick has had a very varied and interesting career, including running his own hotel.

From there he became a regional manager for a hotel group, before taking early retirement, and then deciding he wanted to be involved with new homes once more.

“I was lucky enough to do some temporary work for William Davis and was immediately impressed with the company. The quality of the homes and build is outstanding, and the team here are friendly and professional – it was somewhere I really wanted to work.” Patrick told Insite. Now sales consultant at Princes Place, when not working Patrick is busy making music. See page 38.



Chris Flint - Technical Manager

Starting as an engineer with a civil engineering design consultancy, our new technical manager, Chris Flint has worked for Balfour Beatty, Bloor Homes and was most recently, engineering manager at Harron Homes based in Balborough.

“Currently working under David Dodge and Dave Norton, I'm heading up the engineering team when Dave retires later this year, allowing time for me to get up to speed and for Dave to leave comfortable in the knowledge things are being dealt with after his many years' service.” Chris told Insite.

Based in Derby, Chris has passed many William Davis sites over the years and says the company has always held a very strong reputation in the industry.

When not working, Chris is busy entertaining his seven- year- old daughter and also enjoys football and fishing. He has a pet tortoise called Shelby. (Probably the first tortoise to get a mention in Insite!)



Shaun Fay - Assistant Site Manager

Joining the company from Persimmon, Shaun Fay is assistant site manager to Paul Slack at Regency Park, Castle Donington. Shaun, who trained as a plasterer before moving into site management, told Insite he is very impressed with the quality of build, and the standard of our tradespeople.

“I like the fact many of the William Davis team have worked here for some time, it shows in the standard of build, it's what keeps us ahead of the competition.”

Shaun said.

Not only are the whole Fay family keen Nottingham Forest fans, they are footballers too, with his daughter playing since she was five.



Melissa Cook - HR Advisor

Melissa Cook has joined the company in the new role of HR Advisor, working under Head of HR, Rebecca Jones.

Melissa's background includes working for Strata Homes as a sales consultant, then moving into HR for an aviation company before joining us here at William Davis.

“It's the diversity that appeals to me,” said Melissa. “I love helping develop careers and opportunities, taking on challenges and helping to resolve them.”

Melissa has achieved her CIPD Level 3 & Level 5 and hopes to go onto mentoring and coaching, and possibly CIPD Level 7 in the future.

“We're all at work for such a long time, it's my aim to make it the best it can be.” Melissa told Insite.

When not working, Melissa and her cocker spaniel, Django are busy training their new puppy cockerpoo, Maple.





James King - Finance Manager

James – from Mickleover – is a qualified accountant/auditor with extensive experience in financial management.

New to construction, James wanted an opportunity to develop a team and improve systems and processes, describing his role as ‘non-stop, so far!’

“My job is to provide up-to-date financial information to the senior leadership team, as well as statutory reporting to external parties such as auditors.” James said.

“Currently I’m working with the IT team on our purchasing process, amongst many other projects and looking forward to getting on site in the near future to better understand key challenges and the business itself.”

Out of the office, Artie, a two-year-old black Labrador keeps James busy – a visit to the Lake District is planned, and James also recently joined the company gym.

Michelle Thompson - Sales Consultant



When Michelle Thompson – currently one of our sales consultants at Buttercup Fields – and her husband sold everything and moved to France, it was a ‘just do it!’ decision.

Nine years later, they left La Fremier to return to the UK and have been back since 2013, during which time Michelle worked in sales for Hallams and Bellway, yet always had William Davis in her sights.

“I’d heard William Davis was such a great company to work for, I kept hoping something would come up at the right time for me. When I was told about this position, I thought, ‘just do it!’ And I’m so glad I did.” Michelle told Insite.

Connor Patterson-Pawley - Assistant Site Manager



Based at Burton on the Wolds, Connor Patterson-Pawley is working as assistant site manager with Dean Gladdin.

Having worked for Davidsons in the same role, Connor was looking for a new challenge and told Insite it was the company’s reputation for producing a quality product and being a good employer that attracted him.

“I particularly enjoy the ‘back end’ works and finishing plots off. Making our customers happy is important to me.” Connor said.

In his spare time Connor, who comes from Countesthorpe, is a keen supporter of Leicester City FC.

Justin Morgan - Site Manager

Originally training as a carpenter and joiner, Justin Morgan moved into site management some 16 years ago.

Following a brief spell with the company, Justin moved away but was keen to rejoin when the opportunity arose, saying he’s glad to be back working for ‘a quality builder’.

“There’s no comparison when you look at the quality here.”

Justin told Insite.

“The materials and workmanship are all a cut above and that’s very important to our customers, who really do appreciate the difference.”

Justin is now site manager at Lace Fields, where he says he has an excellent team, who genuinely care about the standard of work.



Naomi Sarfaty-Wells & Lauren Wilson - Sales Consultants

Currently looking after one of our newest developments, Thorpebury in the Limes in Leicestershire, sales consultant, Naomi Sarfaty-Wells brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked in property all her career.

“I first went into estate agency before moving into new homes, because not only do I enjoy the interaction with customers, but the flexibility really works for me.”

Said Naomi, who currently has three horses to care for and manages to attend to them before and after work.

Keeping on top of this busy site, Naomi works with Sue Emery and with another new team member Lauren Wilson.

Lauren – who also has many years new homes sales experience commented.

“I think this is one of the nicest developments I’ve ever worked on, and the houses are superb. It’s easy to see why it’s so popular.”

Stefano Corgiolu - Apprentice Data Analyst

Stefano Corgiolu is the company’s first ever apprentice data analyst.

Working closely with Matthew Bullock and Richard Irons, Stefano’s role includes designing, showcasing, and creating PowerBI dashboards to display important data, together with running Jet Reports for various departments, all helping to capture data and format it more efficiently.

“My experience working here has been nothing but positive and I’m really enjoying my role.” Stefano told Insite.

A massive football fan – Stefano supports Derby County and plays football weekly, also working out in the company gym at lunchtime.



Silver Service

Congratulating five of the team, each completing a quarter of a century of service with the company!

Paul Harrison
– Plumber

Paul served his apprenticeship as a plumber at William Davis, working under Lenny Green and Terry and Pete Jinks to name a few. Based in Coventry, Paul was on our Cawston development in Rugby for many years, saying he’s always worked with a good team. *“To have steady work with a good company over the years has been great,”* he said.

When off duty Paul practices Brazilian Jiu Jitsu – a predominantly ground-based martial art – and says his son and two daughters also keep him busy.

Stephen Mason
– Forklift Driver

Stephen Mason from Derby, initially joined the company as a site labourer, and soon after the company put him through training for his forklift licence. Stephen’s been a forklift driver ever since, telling Insite.

“Sometimes it can be hectic, as it’s up to me to deliver all the materials everyone on site needs but it’s great to have a job for this long and be able to say I still enjoy it.” Having worked on most of our sites over the years, Stephen says.

“It’s a great company to work for, and the past 25 years seem to have gone by very quickly.”

Keen music lovers, Stephen and his wife like to attend ‘Big Weekender’ rock festivals whenever they get the chance.

Dave Knott
– Bricklayer’s Labourer

Working with a bricklaying gang – who cheekily call themselves ‘Davo’s No 1 Gang’ – Dave Knott says it’s his excellent relationship with workmates – Dave King (who he has worked with for all of his 25 years with the company) and Dean Masters (who he has worked with for 16 years) who have made his work so enjoyable. *“We’ve worked on lots of sites all over and it’s been the perfect fit. It’s been great to work with a good team and a good company.”*

Off duty Dave likes to play golf and also tries his hand at a spot of indoor bowls.



Paul Harrison, Plumber

Paul Nelson
– Road Manager

Having trained at Nottingham Trent Polytechnic, roads manager, Paul Nelson joined the company as a site engineer. Today, as well as managing our roads team, Paul works closely with our infrastructure contractors, checking off key production stages and ensuring all relevant services – eg water and gas – are in line with progress and ready to hand over when the site is complete. Paul says:

“I’ve worked on many different sites and projects over the years, it’s always interesting as we’re there at the very start, throughout and then at the very end.”

Paul, originally from Merseyside, received an Epiphone Les Paul guitar to celebrate his 25 years and when he’s not practising enjoys horse racing and supporting Liverpool FC.



Stephen Mason, Forklift Driver



Dave Knott, Bricklayer’s Labourer



Paul Nelson, Road Manager

Matt Bullock – Head of Information Systems

When Matt joined the company there was only one PC in the building for sending emails and it was his job to show people how to use it, as everything was sent by fax.

He says lots of colleagues told him ‘emails’ would never catch on.

Fast forward twenty-five years and Matt is now driving a major IT push, not only utilising existing systems to optimise performance but eventually upgrading to ‘the cloud’ which will give us more IT capacity.

“It’s about being efficient, if everything is on the system then we all have ‘one version of the truth’ to work with.” He said.

Matt likes to be outside when he’s not working, managing his son’s football team, and ferrying his daughter from dancing to tennis, in between a bit of socialising, which he also enjoys.



Matt Bullock, Head of Information Systems



Did you know?
81 people have worked for the business for over 25 years. 29 on-site and 52 at HQ. A great achievement!

Staying customer focused through teamwork... a day in the life of our site & sales duo at Lime Gardens

Here’s how Simon & Fay work together ...

5:30am
I’m awake and ready to leave around 6.30am. It’s a 45-minute journey from home in Derbyshire to Sutton Bonington in Nottinghamshire. I get to site around 7.15am.

8:00am
From now until lunch time – with a break at 9.30am – it’s very busy. My first job is to interact with the team, ensuring they know what’s on for the day, as well as delivering any plans, drawings or permits needed. I carry out a series of health & safety checks including the weather forecast and make sure the right materials are available, so everyone can commence work.

11:05am
Time to liaise with HQ – usually Ben Long, our buyer and Jake Hill, who co-ordinates supplies. When the sales office is open, I’ll call there too. Basically balancing between talking directly to people, checking and sending emails and catching up by telephone.

12:30pm – 1:00pm
Often a working lunch, with members of the team coming into the site office, there’s usually a bit of banter and a catch up between bites.

1:30pm
There can be up to 20 plus trades and services on site at any one time. Everyone has to be booked in and shown where to go, including NHBC/Building Control. We’re very strict on safety such as PPE, scaffolding etc., as well as traffic management and walkways. Segregating people, plant and machinery is a big part of a site manager’s job. We also have ‘Meet the Builder’ appointments and are in constant liaison with our customers – we all appreciate how important that customer relationship is.

1:30pm – 2:00pm
If it’s Monday I meet with Fay to discuss what customer handovers are coming up. Every 4/5 weeks there’s a production meeting with Mark Chettleburgh, Russ Pitman, Duncan Mann and sales manager Viv Aldridge. An opportunity to discuss quality checks, standards of finished plots etc., We have ongoing meetings with the site team – keeping everyone on board.

4:00pm
I’m on tour again, making sure plots are locked, ladders are up and all other areas are safe and secure. I make sure we’re all sorted and away by 4.30pm.

5:15pm
After the evening meal I take our West Highland terriers, Dexter and Phoebe for a good walk. If the weather’s nice, my wife and I like to be in the garden, hopefully planning our next holiday to Turkey.

“ It’s a great team, we all appreciate how important our customer relationships are. ”



“ I love the interaction with our customers. I like them to feel comfortable and safe in our hands. Site and sales are a team, and that’s projected to our customers too. ”

7:30am
After my wakeup alarm, I see to my dog, Jim and have breakfast.

9:55am
I’m off just before ten. It’s only a 35-minute drive and I love listening to music while I motor along.

10:35am
At the sales office, I turn the alarm off and the CCTV on, before checking messages. Then I open the show homes, making sure everywhere is pristine with cushions plumped. Simon or Duncan will call to discuss what needs attention /action and from 11am I’m ready to greet the public.

1:30pm – 2:00pm
Mondays I’ll meet Simon to discuss progress and customer ‘Meet the Builder’ appointments plus pre-occupation walk throughs. ‘Meet the Builder’ visits are often the first opportunity customers have to view their new home. I update progress with our customers weekly, including input from solicitors, estate agents, mortgage advisers etc., I eat lunch at my desk, keeping the sales office open.

2:30pm
I have scheduled visitor appointments booked now. Once a home is at the correct build stage, customers are invited to choose kitchens, tiles and flooring. We build ‘mood boards’ showing the various options. I always encourage clients to have a ‘play’, as this is a fun part of buying a new home. Once selections are made, I inform the relevant departments – such as electricians/ plumbing etc., at HQ.

3:30pm
I also refer customers – if required – to the mortgage brokers we work with. This is a free service we offer customers.

4:20pm
By now, I’m checking everything is updated. The site and sales team interact often, for instance, at this stage I’ll add and update our latest customer requirements, ensuring the team is aware of choices for each plot and the various trades can see details for the homes they are working on.

5:00pm
Time to lock up, plump cushions and reset the alarms; soon to enjoy the drive home listening to my music again.

6:30pm
I might take a drive into the countryside, listening to soul music – I love Motown and have a long-standing appreciation for traditional folk music too. I like to sew, enjoy tapestry and various other crafts. After a busy day, it’s good to find time to relax.

The Kenilworth & Loxley are available to view at Lime Gardens.
For more information contact:
Fay Bullock on:
01509 270148 / 07976 169775



Stepping Up!

We're pleased to recognise a number of individuals who have moved into new roles.

Vikki Martin – Head of Procurement

Moving from a national construction firm, Vikki Martin joined the company as quantity surveyor and is now in the new role of Head of Procurement.

Working under commercial director Mark Waplington, Vikki has a commercial brief focusing on budgets.

“Going forward I will be helping the commercial team produce a more detailed and accurate site start budget, and exploring the most cost effect routes to market for the procurement of materials.”

Vikki has joined the company gym and says she's a 'football widow', preferring cricket, having been to Cape Town twice to watch England play.



Tom Dillarstone – Planning Manager

Having joined the company as senior planner, Tom Dillarstone has been promoted to planning manager.

He told Insite. “My role is to lead the team that gains planning permission for new sites. This involves working with consultants and colleagues to prepare technical reports and come up with strategies that enable us to achieve a deliverable permission when the site is required. We currently have three planners on board, hoping to add another team member later this year.”

Outside work Tom enjoys hiking and was part of the William Davis team undertaking the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge – see page 35.



Tina Brinkworth – Receptionist

A friendly and familiar face around HQ, Tina Brinkworth has been has taken on a new role as receptionist.

Tina Brinkworth, having successfully undertaken further training, says she jumped at the chance when offered the role to join head receptionist Helen English.

“I love dealing with people,” Tina told Insite. “My role involves answering the phone, admin, booking meeting rooms, ordering stationery and keeping the vending machines operational.”

Off duty, Tina looks after her granddaughter, and her four dogs also keep her busy.



Dan Claypole – Trainee Assistant Site Manager

Joining the company as a forklift driver, Dan Claypole has been promoted to trainee assistant site manager, under Thorpebury site manager Paul Dolman and contracts manager Russ Pitman. Currently working towards becoming an assistant, Dan says he would eventually like to progress to a fully-fledged site manager.

“My new role includes snagging prior to customers moving into their new homes, ensuring they are provided with top level customer care once they're all moved in, managing and supporting our team and ordering materials so we can continue our work in a timely manner.” Dan told Insite.

A keen sportsman, Dan also enjoys visiting theme parks with his children in his spare time.



Matt Bullock – Head of Information Systems

Celebrating 25 years in the business, Matt Bullock has been promoted to Head of IS – Information Systems.

Matt said: “Over the next few months we'll start migrating systems across to the Cloud beginning with Microsoft Office 365, quickly followed by our ERP Microsoft Business Central.

“The aim is to provide everyone with the right tools - hardware and software - to help us all work more efficiently and collaboratively. This is a change from having all systems on the premises. By moving to the Cloud, information will be much more available and easily accessible.”



James Chatterton – Planning Manager

Promoted to planning manager, James Chatterton, has also recently been accredited Chartered Town Planner. Working under Matt Colloby, in our West Midlands office, James says he's enjoying this new challenge.

“My role includes overseeing projects from planning promotion through to permission. Together with looking at future opportunities and growing the business through sourcing new sites.”

James, from Hinckley, coaches Barwell FC, an Under 15s football team, steering them to promotion last season – his first year at the helm!



Rebecca Jones – Head of HR

Rebecca Jones, who has worked for the business for 15 years, has been made Head of HR.

“Working under the direction of Richard Irons, I'm pleased for the opportunity to further develop my role in the company.” Rebecca told Insite. “I'll be overseeing all HR functions within the company, creating and enforcing best practice HR policies and driving 'people management' strategies to support our organisational growth, while at the same time helping to shape our company culture.”

Key projects over the next 12 months include reviewing HR systems and employee benefits, while continuing to focus on training and development.



Aaron Mayer – Senior Engineer

Having been in construction for over 20 years, Aaron joined William Davis because of the company's excellent reputation. Now senior engineer, he works under David Norton, engineering manager.

“My role is to project manage developments from a sub-structure perspective, making sure we deliver the most commercially effective and viable solutions on site. I get involved at the early stages advising our land and planning team on matters such as access strategies, surface, and foul water disposal.”

Aaron is a car and gym enthusiast in his spare time.



Oliver Robinson – Site Manager

As we go to press we are delighted to announce that Oliver Robinson has been promoted to Site Manager.

Oliver, started in the engineering department over six years ago, has progressed into site management and is now based at Lace Fields, Ruddington supported by assistant site manager Ki Smith.



George Fearn – Engineer

Joining the company just two years ago as an assistant engineer, George Fern has been promoted to engineer. Working under David Norton and Chris Flint with the rest of the engineering team.

“My role is to manage our consultants, reviewing drawings to ensure we deliver accurate engineering solutions that can be delivered by our production team. While at the same time being commercially viable and cost effective.” George told Insite.

“I'm looking forward to continuing to develop my career here at William Davis.”



Left to right: Keith Walton, managing director Guy Higgins, Joe Turner and Stephen Blockley.

Building Careers Worth Celebrating!

With three well known members of the on-site team taking retirement, the occasion had to be marked, especially as the combined length of service of Keith Walton, Joe Turner and Stephen Blockley is over eighty years.

Joined by nearly seventy colleagues, friends and family members the trio; Keith, a site manager; Joe, a machine driver, and Stephen, a groundworker, celebrated in style with drinks and lunch at The Manor, Quorn.

And now for the future?

Keith, who lives in Grantham, is off to visit his daughter in America, saying it's the first time he's been and he's really looking forward to it.

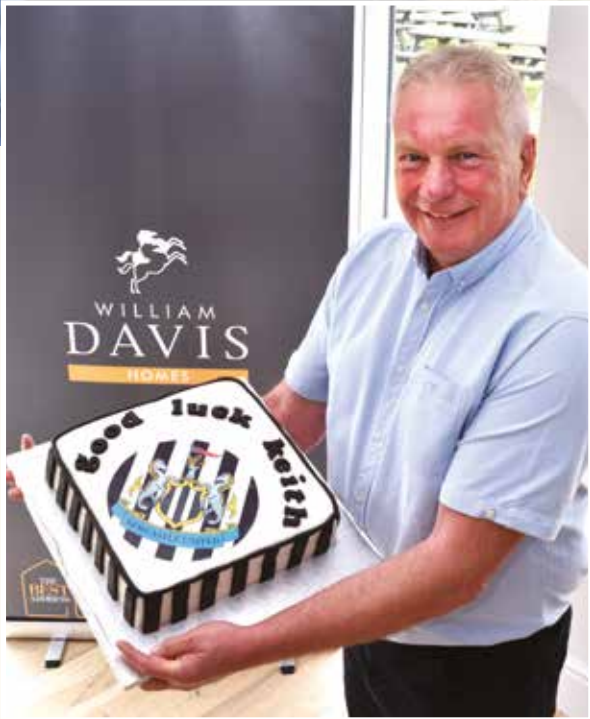
Joe, from Droitwich, plans to take life easy! He'll be gardening, walking the dog and taking care of his fishpond. Joe says he's enjoyed working with the site team over the years and never had a bad moment.

And finally, Stephen said he will be taking each day as it comes and as well as gardening and walking his dog, he breeds canaries, so he'll be nice and busy.

"I've had some cracking times and laughs," Stephen said. "It's been a good firm with good workmates, and I've enjoyed every day."

Guy commented:

“It's great to hear how enjoyable these long careers have been. The whole company wishes all three a very happy retirement.”



Keith Walton was presented with a 'Good luck' cake featuring his favourite football team, Newcastle United. The cake was created by Heath Piggott's wife, Laura.



Top slot at SkilleLECTRIC – report by Gary Long

Three of our senior apprentice electricians – Demi Whitehead, Felicity-Mae Monks and Brandon Jackson – took part in the SkilleLECTRIC National Heats 2023.

Designed to promote and showcase high standards and skills across the electrotechnical industry, the event is part of the WorldSkillsUK competition.

To reach the National Heats was a great achievement for all three, they had to undertake an online, interactive app-based task which focused on skills around health and safety, inspection and testing,

regulations, electrical principles and installation practices and procedures.

Following this, the top scoring competitors were invited to the National Heats which included Demi, Felicity and Brandon.

All three did themselves and our company proud. And after two weeks of waiting for the result, it was fantastic to hear that Demi Whitehead had finished in first place and Felicity Mae Monks had finished in second. An absolutely tremendous result for themselves and the company.

The top eight competitors who score the highest from all the National Heats will go forward to the UK Final in November 2023, and beyond this, may also have the chance to represent their country and compete internationally at the next World Skills international event.

Update: As we go to press we're delighted to announce that Demi Whitehead has made the final eight and will compete in the UK Final in November 2023.

Welcome to our newest apprentices

Apprentice manager, Gary Long and bricklaying mentor, Dave King, have welcomed 14 new starters onto the William Davis apprentice scheme since the last issue of Insite magazine.

The new recruits include trainees in the following trades; eight bricklayers, three electricians, two plumbers/gas engineers and one scaffolder, bringing the total number of apprentices currently on our Apprenticeship Programme to a very impressive 32.



Left to Right: Addison Walsh-Clements (Back) – Site Joiner, Malakai Shepherd-Aldridge (Front) – Bricklayer, Kyle Bush (Back) – Bricklayer, Dave King- Apprentice Mentor, Jacob Smith (Back) – Site Joiner, Danny Chaplin (Front) – Bricklayer, Riley McManus (Back) – Scaffolder, Oliver Mudge (Back) – Plumbing/Heating, Gavin Moore (Middle) – Electrician, Gary Long – Apprentice Manager, Joe Moore (Back) – Electrician, Ferdie Smith (Front) – Plumbing/Heating, Eyal Butcher (Back) – Electrician and Ben Crumbe (Front) – Bricklayer.

Two of our new bricklaying apprentices, Taylor Hodgskin and Nathan Price, have joined as part of the local employment plan in partnership with Chesterfield Borough Council and Chesterfield College. From the Chesterfield area, the apprentices are working with their mentors at our Skylarks development in Dunston.

“The success of our apprentice training model is well known, and we're always proud to welcome our new apprentices starting, what will hopefully be, long careers in the industry.”

Gary said.



Apprentice manager Gary Long with new apprentice bricklayers Taylor Hodgskin and Nathan Price, pictured with their mentors, Damon Bull and Haydn Gough.



Pupils help build home for hedghogs

Site manager Simon Smith is pictured with pupils from Sutton Bonington Primary School helping to install a hedgehog home at Lime Gardens. In recognition of their involvement, all the children signed their names on the lid of the wooden nest.

Apprentice Employer of Choice!

William Davis Homes has been named Apprentice Employer of the Year at the prestigious Leicester Employment Hub Awards 2023.

Tina Jivraj, Business Development & Key Account Manager at Leicester College commented:

"This remarkable achievement is testament to the unwavering commitment and exceptional leadership William Davis has demonstrated throughout its partnership with the college."

"Your dedication to fostering a nurturing and supportive environment for your employees and apprentices is truly commendable."

"I would also like to express my gratitude for the positive impact William Davis has had on our apprenticeship journey. Your organization's commitment to providing excellent training and development opportunities has played a vital role in shaping the success of our apprentices."

The environment you have cultivated has ensured that your apprentices have thrived and excelled."

Apprentice manager, Gary Long accepted the award on behalf of the company saying:

"It's a great honour for William Davis Homes and all who work within our apprenticeship programme to receive this award. Apprenticeships are vital to our business as we continue to develop new talent, providing the skills for us to continue to build quality new homes. We have a great partnership with Leicester College and long may it continue."



A Bright Future Ahead

Investing in professional development



Left to right from the back: Stefano Corgioli; Lewis Ingram, Oliver Robinson, Dan Ward. Front: Dylan Green and Callum Griffiths-Cunningham.



Above: Jake Hill.

People are at the heart of our business, and investing in training and development is key to our continued success.

While our trades apprentice scheme is widely recognised, we also have a number of trainees in other roles, attending colleges and universities as they pursue their career goals.

Here's how they're progressing.

Callum Griffiths-Cunningham, trainee quantity surveyor.

"So far, I've completed the first year of my HNC in Construction & the Built Environment. After finishing this course in two years' time I look forward to beginning taking responsibility for one of my own sites."

Dylan Green, assistant setting out engineer.

"To date I've gained valuable hands-on experience in surveying and project management. My plan is to pursue further opportunities, obtaining relevant certifications and seeking mentorship from experienced engineers, to continually expand my knowledge and expertise."

Jake Hill, assistant quantity surveyor.

"Having completed my Level 3 BTEC & HND qualifications, I've commenced a degree in Quantity Surveying & Commercial Management. My aspiration is to move into the role of Quantity Surveyor and complete my current degree. I also hope to undertake my RICS APC to obtain Chartership status."

In a new role, **Stefano Corgioli** has joined the company as a data analyst apprentice.

"I'm extremely happy in my role, and the way I am constantly developing my skills and knowledge. My plan is to continue working hard for the remainder of my apprenticeship programme and apply the skills and experience I'm developing to my day-to-day role at William Davis."

Dan Ward, assistant development surveyor.

"I was aware of William Davis as a company I really wanted to be part of. Since coming into the business, I've been generously supported in my academic studies and I'm eager to continue my growth within my role, contributing to the company's future success."

Lewis Ingram, quantity surveyor.

"Having now finished my degree I'm grateful for the opportunities given to me by the company. Growing from a young inexperienced trainee to running a number of my own sites has been a great experience. I am looking forward to developing my skills leading to a successful career within the industry."

Oliver Robinson, site manager.

"I started in the engineering department and moved across to construction management have now completed my degree. I'm looking forward to developing my knowledge and skills, progressing through the company to continue a successful career in the industry."



It was a great turnout with colleagues, family and friends all gathering at HQ for the Apprentice of the Year Awards. Pictured with their awards, winner **Seb Smith** and runner-up **Brandon Jackson**. Far left, production director **Mark Chettleburgh**, far right apprentice manager, **Gary Long** and William Davis managing director, **Guy Higgins**.

Celebrating success at our annual Apprentice of the Year Awards

There was a fantastic turnout for the annual celebration of our long-running apprenticeship scheme when the Apprentice of the Year was announced.

Twenty-year-old Seb Smith, a fourth-year apprentice plumber and gas engineer, was named 'Apprentice of the Year'.

Seb, who attends Leicester College, is described as a popular member of the team who takes great pride in his work and was delighted with his win, he said:

"All the hard work has paid off and I'm really pleased to be with William Davis Homes who are an amazing company. They make sure all the apprentices are supported. I've made some really good friends here."

Seb decided to become a plumber because his dad Rick had also been in the trade and his mum Sherry encouraged him to pursue the career.

Runner-up was 20-year-old Brandon Jackson, a fourth-year apprentice electrician, who thanked mentor David Oliver for his support – David won the overall award back in 1975!

Managing director, Guy Higgins said:

"Our awards evening is a great opportunity to recognise the success of our apprentice scheme, and this year, again we had a record number of applicants."

"It's a longstanding tradition we are incredibly proud of and recognise the hard work that goes into it – all our apprentices, trainees and their mentors are to be applauded."



Apprentice of the Year runner-up **Brandon Jackson** and winner **Seb Smith**.

Guy also praised apprentice manager, Gary Long, with the scheme being recognised by the Housebuilder Awards, the East Midlands Property Awards and more recently,

named Apprentice Employer of the Year at the Leicester Employment Hub Awards 2023. See page 26.

Spreading the word... live on air!



BBC Radio Leicester presenter, Jack Rafferty interviews **Demi Whitehead**, **Sian Bradshaw** and **Felicity-Mae Monks** for National Apprentice Week.

As part of National Apprentice Week, Demi Whitehead, Sian Bradshaw and Felicity-Mae Monks were invited into BBC Radio Leicester to be interviewed live on the Jack Rafferty show. Talking about women in construction and apprenticeships in particular, the three – Demi and Felicity are electricians, while Sian is a bricklayer – gave a really positive account of their experiences,

saying they were supported and encouraged every step of the way.

Felicity closed the show by encouraging others to 'Just go for it!' saying that working in construction is a job for life, and even if you change direction at any point, you will always have something to fall back on.

Sound advice and a really enjoyable interview – well done all!

Toasting our team's success!

In recognition of the sales team's achievement of not just meeting our target but exceeding it – 300 homes targeted, 303 achieved – a special venue was chosen for this year's sales meeting.

Managing director Guy Higgins and operations director David Dodge, played host at Kilworth House in Leicestershire, where a celebratory glass was raised ahead of getting the meeting underway.

While Guy congratulated the team, he also acknowledged that everyone in the company played their part, over the past twelve months, with the market changing after being stable for some time.

He also commented that despite this, we managed a positive end to the year, with plans for further investment and company growth in place.

David also applauded the team, saying it took a lot of hard work to deliver these excellent results.

"It's important to highlight that even in a challenging marketplace, with three new sites on the horizon, we're entering the new financial year in a good position," David said. "The way forward is for all of us to stay focused and pull together to embrace whatever it takes to become more efficient and effective, thereby underpinning our continued success."



From the back left to right: **David Dodge** – operations director, **Stephanie Holland** – sales consultant, consultant, **Tracey Scholey** – sales consultant, **Sue Gurney** – sales consultant, **Susan Emery** – sales consultant, **Nicola Hewitt** – sales consultant, **Kelly Rudkin** – sales consultant, **Marie Clitheroe** – sales consultant,

Wendy Parry – sales consultant, **Lauren Wilson** – sales consultant, **Naomi Sarfaty-Wells** – sales consultant, **Sally Brookes** – senior sales manager, **Pamela Hollingworth** – sales consultant, **June Hall** – sales consultant, **Viv Aldridge** – sales manager and **Guy Higgins** – managing director.



“Sales manager, Viv and I are so proud of how the whole Sales Team embraced the challenge to ensure that we hit the year-end target. The fact we exceeded it is testament to everyone's hard work and commitment, a great achievement by all.”

Sally Brookes, senior sales manager.

Through the Keyhole at two of our newest developments



One of the things our customers tell us time and again is, not only do our show homes have the WOW factor, but are so beautifully designed that it's easy for potential buyers to imagine they could move straight in. Here we peep through the keyhole at two of our newest developments:



Honeysuckle Rise – Burton on the Wolds, LE12 5TQ

The elegant blend of dove grey floors, terracotta tweeds and lush velvet give the four-bedroom Beamish a luxurious feeling of warmth and comfort, as traditional styling mixes effortlessly with our statement state-of-the-art kitchen, featuring the latest Smeg appliances.

Add eye-catching feature wallpapers, funky ceramics and ethnic throws and you can almost picture the classy, quirky characters who might well 'live' here.

A truly gorgeous family home, spacious, welcoming and functional. The Beamish is a fine example of what we do so well; quality and style.

Interesting fact
The Wolds is a term used to describe a range of hills consisting of open country overlying a base of limestone or chalk.



Lime Gardens – Sutton Bonington, LE12 5NQ

Not far away we soon arrive at our newest and most eco-focused development, Lime Gardens. There are two showhouses here, The Kenilworth and the Loxley.

The Kenilworth is a rhapsody in every shade of blue and grey, and the sort of house that just goes on, and on. Details like panelling in the sitting room, the sumptuous sofa in the fabulous living/kitchen and design statements in every bedroom, from signature headboards to exquisite light fittings, there's much to see. And then there's the 'room at the top'. A full-sized principal suite, complete with chaise lounge, double bathroom and huge walk-in wardrobe. Truly breath-taking.

Next door, the Loxley is immediately bold, bright and spacious. There's a study with a statement wall to sweep you away, the cosiest yet coolest of sitting rooms and a kitchen that whispers welcome, packed with every convenience to meet the needs of the most creative of cooks, and masses of space to please the most genial of hosts.

A palette of olive green, dusky pink and nutmeg blend with a range of luxe fabrics – tweed, velvet, velour and silk, giving the whole house a soothing elegance while effortlessly blending town and county with a splash of panache!

Designed by Edward Thomas Interiors.

The importance of customer feedback...

...what new homes buyers say about location, quality & service!



Golden Couple at Skylarks

Bryn and Linda Jones celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary by moving into a brand-new forever home.

The couple signed for the purchase of their William Davis home on the exact date of their 50th wedding anniversary. Moving, a few weeks later, into their beautiful four-bedroom Soar at Skylarks, Chesterfield.

"I felt at home as soon as we moved in," said Linda. "It was a wonderful way to celebrate our anniversary."

Bryn admitted it was a wrench moving from their previous house in Chesterfield, which he had built himself. The couple had lived there for 36 years.

However, having worked in construction, Bryn recognised the high-quality craftsmanship which is part of every William Davis home. "The homes at Skylarks are perfectly laid out. The garden is private and we're not over-looked." He said.

Linda added: "The sales consultant, Stephanie, was really helpful. From sales, to site workers and customer service, nothing has been too much trouble. We can see why William Davis has achieved five-star status for customer satisfaction eight years running."



Perfect Balance at Wellington Place

Moving 120 miles to Market Harborough, Brendan and Duncan Greenfield-Turk agree they found the perfect work-life balance at Wellington Place.

"We fell in love with the area, there's a real sense of community here," said Brendan. "And it's not as expensive as where we lived previously. The quality of life here is so much better."

With his office in London, Brendan's journey is only 80 minutes thanks to the excellent rail links, meaning the couple have plenty of time to enjoy walks with their two dogs, while making the most of Market Harborough's wide range of restaurants and pubs.

Duncan commented: "We love eating out and many places here are dog-friendly, which is really important."

The couple were impressed with the design of our development and what they describe as 'ample space' between the houses.

"We looked at other developments, but this house was definitely the right choice," Brendan said.

Duncan added: "William Davis Homes have been really helpful and their customer service is incredibly good. We can't speak too highly of sales consultants Tracey and Suzy."



Teachers Top Marks at Lace Fields

School teachers Katie and Tim Howse say the company deserves top marks after moving into their ideal home at Lace Fields.

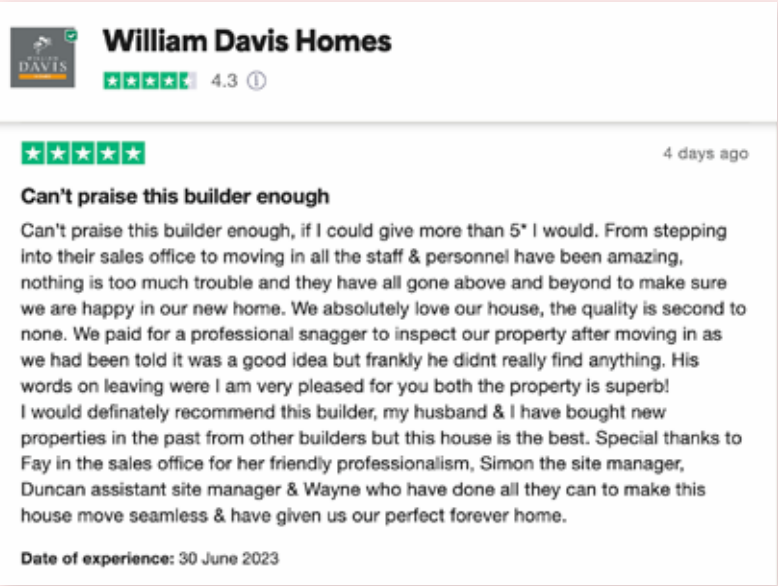
The couple were so impressed they reserved their four-bedroom Severn within 24 hours of viewing the show home.

Said Katie: "We considered several developers, but William Davis Homes were by far the best in terms of customer service. Their personal approach really made all the difference."

"We spoke to the sales consultant Sally-Ann who was absolutely amazing and kept us informed every step of the way. The whole buying process was very smooth and we know Sally-Ann and her colleague Karen are still available if we need any help."

"With a lot of modern houses, you walk through the lounge to get to the kitchen. But here there's a separate lounge, important when you just want to switch-off and relax." Added Tim.

"Ruddington is a lovely village," said Katie. "We've made many friends here and there's a real sense of community."



Encouraging customer reviews

We're delighted to announce we're doing really well on the online review platform - Trust Pilot – with a rating of 'Excellent' scoring 4.3.

Above is one of our latest reviews for Lime Gardens. Well done, team!

"Our marketing strategy is ongoing, ensuring we are visible in all the places customers will look for new homes. A major marketing aim over the last year has been to encourage positive reviews from our customers. Not only is it good to establish this two-way communication, it helps keep us on our toes, highlighting any areas we may need to improve. With a current rating of excellent, let's keep up the good work!"

David Dodge, operations director.

New website on its way!



One of the first places our customers 'meet us' is online. Which is why, wherever they see us, we need to be delivering good, positive messages, highlighting what makes us different – the quality of our new homes, the superb locations of our fabulous developments and our commitment to sustainability and biodiversity – all the things that make the William Davis brand stand out.

Continuing this policy of high-end brand recognition, we will soon be launching a fresh new website,

providing an attractive, user-friendly and interactive portal for customers, offering a range of improved functions and features, enabling customers to view our developments and discover their new home and book visits to our sites quickly and simply.

"With a stylish new look and these additional features, the new website will help enhance the overall William Davis Homes experience, all part of our continuing focus on good communications." Senior sales manager, Sally Brookes said.

Recommend a friend with William Davis Homes

£500 gift for you and your friend

Recommend a friend and both receive £500. Once the purchase of a William Davis Home, is legally completed, we give you and your family or friend £500.

IT Savvy...

...driving efficiencies through the latest digital solutions.

As the business grows, one of our key objectives is to continue to develop and improve how we communicate at all levels.

We're doing this by utilising Cloud-based integrated digital solutions incorporating secure remote access, whilst adopting bespoke apps and 'live' data dashboards to process and access information more effectively.

"By incorporating apps and other digital features our communication and reporting processes are faster and more streamlined," Senior sales manager, Sally Brookes said.

"It's a real advantage having all the information relating to the sales process accessible to the whole team at any time."

“From securing reservations, to choosing kitchen tiles, work surfaces, floor finishes and any extras, through to final completions, this whole process is having a really positive impact on how we operate.”

Sales manager, Viv Aldridge said.



John Peck, one of our customer service team, making the most of the new management app being utilised by the team.



Now customers can choose their plot and reserve it digitally - sales consultant Sue Emery and sales manager Viv Aldridge say it's making a difference.

On the customer service side, a specially developed app is being used to manage appointments, liaise with customers, communicate with the team back at HQ and generally plan all our aftersales service requirements.

Customer services manager, Tracey Selby told Insite.

“We rolled out the system earlier this summer and it immediately started to make a difference. The team can report on live jobs, feedback on completion, and add photographs to support whatever needs to be sourced or supplied. It makes managing the customer service function much more streamlined and efficient.”

Come on in and join the gym!



Come and join us – say Rebecca Jones, Dave Norton, Paul Hives, Stefano Gorgiolu, George Fearn, Lindsay Schofield, Aaron Mayer and Vicki Frost.

If you haven't had a chance to look around our fantastic on-site gym, then we very much encourage you to!

This brilliant facility – just a few steps from head office – is a self-contained building, with its own entrance and free on-site parking.

It covers two floors and incorporates a wide range of weights and resistance machines, plus an entire cardio fitness floor/studio together with changing rooms, lockers and showers.

No matter what your fitness routine or what level you might be at, there really is something for everyone!

Open daily 6:00am – 8:00pm, this brilliant facility only costs £10 per month / £2.50 per week!

If you would like to find out more about joining or you simply wish to take a look around, please contact Helen English on 01509 231 181 who can help.



Supporting good mental health in housebuilding

by Rebecca Jones



Head of HR Rebecca Jones and Health & Safety Advisor, Diane Gibson at the HBF mental health awareness initiative in London.

Head of HR Rebecca Jones and Health & Safety Advisor, Diane Gibson joined industry representatives at the Houses of Parliament for a Mental Health awareness event organised by the Home Builders Federation.

The event focused on the steps the house building industry is taking to tackle this important issue and how we can support construction workers.

Key speakers included Stewart Baseley, Chairman, HBF and Dean Russell MP who is currently campaigning in Parliament for more mental health first aid training in all workplaces.



Here at William Davis Homes we have been working hard to improve the visibility of mental health support and we are pleased to now have a total of 32 Mental Health First Aiders fully trained.

Thank you to all that have stepped up to volunteer for this important training initiative. In the next article below you can hear first-hand what it means to be a Mental Health First Aider as Karen Berridge tells us more about this role....

...Karen Berridge, plant controller, talks to Insite about being a mental health first aider

“When the call went out for volunteers to become Mental Health First Aiders, I was immediately interested and the more I learned about the role, the more I knew it was something I wanted to do.

I feel very strongly that Mental Health is something to be out in the open, and that people should feel they can ask for and be offered professional help if they need it.

The course is excellent, basically giving an understanding of what to look out for if someone might be in need of support. It's easy to follow and understand, with the emphasis on empathy and discretion when dealing with someone who might have a problem.

It gives you the skills to communicate in an approachable and trustworthy manner, so that the person concerned can talk about their worries or problems, knowing it's in confidence, and then the first aider can seek further help if it's needed.

Having trained mental first aiders throughout the business is important and a really positive development. Not only has this added to my own personal skills, it's given me another rewarding aspect to my role, which is excellent.



Need help? Just ask!



The company would like to remind all employees of the services offered by Health Assured. This confidential service provides a free helpline to any employee needing advice or support.

These issues can be about anything – financial, physical, or mental health, emotional, personal or family issues – it is free and completely confidential.

Free 24-hour confidential helpline: 0800 028 0199

If anyone would like more information you can also contact rebecca.jones@williamdavis.co.uk or telephone 01509 638376.



Davis Granite – Celebrating 75 Years!

Congratulating management and all the team on this very special anniversary.

Many readers may wonder why a housebuilder in the middle of England shares a name and logo with a quarrying company in Africa. The answer is a fascinating story, and testament to the vision and determination of our founder William Davis, who set off across two continents in the 1940's to invest in and help establish a quarrying business in Bulawayo. Today Davis Granite is the premier aggregate company in Zimbabwe.

Overseas investment encouraged after World War II

The ravages of World War II – in terms of both loss of lives and buildings destroyed – left Britain in dire need of building materials and skilled labour to start to recover from the conflict. During this time the government recognised the need for overseas investment, encouraging people to seek out opportunities in other countries to help and support them, and in turn bring a return on these investments back to Britain to help fund business and so aid recovery here.

Seizing the challenge, William flew to Zimbabwe to acquire granite rich land near Bulawayo and soon after Davis Granite began its first quarrying operation there.

Initially, the company here in the UK supported the fledgling African business, with William personally guiding its early years and once the foundations were in – so to speak – a separate board of directors was formed and William's brother, Sam became managing director of Davis Granite.

Dramatic changes since the company launched

Since 1948 the whole of Zimbabwe – and indeed the world – has changed dramatically, with the country seeing growth – from the cities of Harare and Bulawayo to the towns and settlements across the country. Davis Granite has been instrumental in much of that growth, providing granite, sand and aggregates for roads and infrastructure throughout the country.

The company's current management team, headed by Iain Sheasby, managing director and chairman, Tony Rowland (pictured during their most recent visit to Forest Field in Loughborough, UK) believe there is considerable value attached to the role the company played in the development of Zimbabwe over many years, and is no doubt a contributory factor to the continuing success of the business.

Bringing modernisation and improvements

Today, the company continues to embrace and manage change, as despite difficult times in terms of the economy and other external factors, the management team is developing IT and associated systems, engineering, safety, and supply chain management. While identifying both opportunities and challenges in all these areas, the programme to bring modernisation and improvements to many aspects of the company is moving forward, as it becomes even more customer centric to ensure it remains Zimbabwe's most trusted and reliable supplier of high quality, value for money aggregate and related building materials.



Davis Granite chairman **Tony Rowland**, with Davis Granite managing director, **Iain Sheasby** during a visit to Forest Field last year.

With operational quarries in Bulawayo, Harare and Marondera, together with subsidiaries, Premier Stonecrushers in Gweru and Hwange, Davis Granite, far from resting on its laurels is continuing to go from strength to strength.



All of the above, combined with the legacy of this long-established business and its reputation as a responsible employer, providing training and long-term employment opportunities for local people – currently employing in the region of 280 people – are values we recognise and uphold here at William Davis Homes.

It's rewarding to acknowledge we share more than just a name and a logo – and that William's work ethic and commitment to success through teamwork lives on.

“75 years is a fantastic achievement! Well done to you all ... and long may your success continue.”

From the team at **William Davis Homes**.

Yorkshire Three Peaks Success!

We are pleased to report on the success of our hiking challenge across the Yorkshire Three Peaks by Rebecca Jones.

Making an early start on the Saturday morning our group of 32 travelled from Skipton across to the Yorkshire village of Horton in Ribblesdale where our start point commenced at 6.50am.

Here we made our way across to our first ascent which was the steep sharp climb of Pen Y Ghent. We then continued the long stretch towards Ribbleshead viaduct before embarking on the steadier climb to the summit of Whernside, the tallest of the three mountains.

At this point the clouds closed in and the rain came down accompanied by some dramatic thunder and lightning. This passed and we were fortunate that the rain showers were intermittent throughout the day.

After the long and rocky descent of Whernside the journey continued towards our third and final climb of Ingleborough which included another steep and challenging rock climb towards the peak. After this last push we were facing the punishing home stretch with a final six-mile trek back to Horton.

The ground was a mixed terrain with plenty of rocky crags and some flatter stretches which were a welcome relief from the ascents and descents of this route. The panoramic views of the dales were spectacular and well worth the effort.

32 William Davis team members from across office and sites made a valiant effort, supporting one another to complete this challenge. A great achievement, all in aid of West Midlands charity Myton Hospice.

We are delighted to report that all 32 participants completed this epic 24-mile hiking challenge with several members of the group making an outstanding push to complete this in under 8 hours (!) whilst others took a more steady pace, completing in up to 12 hours. With plenty of team support from each other along the way, the experience was extremely rewarding for all who took part and one that will be remembered!

Thank you to everyone who helped us achieve our target of £5k for the Myton Hospice.



Matt Colloby, with members of the team, present **Steve Watts** of Myton Hospice with a cheque for £5k. Picture taken outside our West Midlands office in Leamington Spa.



Back Row Left to Right: Kyle Bush, Russell Pitman, Louis White, Danny Chaplin, Simon Cole, James Chatterton (Office batsman), Dave Ward (Office batsman), Guy Higgins (Umpire), Adam Wainwright. Front Row Left to Right: Ferdie Smith, Daniel Martin, Tom Pritchard, Josh Faulk, Carlo Williams.



Back Row Left to Right: Carlo Williams (Site batsman), Gary Long, Shaun Fay, Dave Ward, Ben McCartney, Lewis Ingram, Richard Irons, Guy Higgins (Umpire), Adam Wainwright (Site batsman). Front Row Left to Right: Aaron Mayer, James Chatterton, Ben Long, Paul Thwaites, Mark Waplington.



20 years!

It was an historic moment for Gary, on the losing side for the first time in over 20 years! But he kept smiling, and agreed it was a great match!

Howzat happen?

Report by Gary Long

Under darkening skies, the Annual Cricket match got underway with new team captains – myself after 20 years as Site Captain, taking over the role of Office Team Captain, with Russell Pitman taking over as Site Team Captain.

The site team won the toss and batted first, scoring an excellent 115 runs off 14 overs. The score of 115 included three 20 run 'not out' retirements for Adam Wainwright, Louis White and Simon Cole.

The office team found batting difficult against a good bowling effort from the site team. The office team never recovered from losing the first six wickets for

only 109 runs. They recovered slightly with good innings from Lewis Ingram and Paul Thwaites, with Lewis top scoring 16. They finished on 73 for 8 wickets after their 14 overs.

The overall result was the site team winning by 42 runs.

The Man of the Match prize going to bricklayer Louis White for his overall display, scoring 20 'not out' and taking three wickets.

The match was played competitively but friendly, all players should be congratulated for their competitive spirit, resulting in the game played in a superb atmosphere.



Back Row Left to Right: Dan Bancroft, Tom Beighton, Danny Chaplin, Adam Wainwright, Dave King, Ben McCartney, Dean Gladdin. Middle: Daniel Martin. Front Row Left to Right: Lewis Roberts, Vikki Martin, Tom Pritchard, Rebecca Jones.



Back Row Left to Right: Aaron Mayer, Shaun Fay, Russell Pitman, Lindsay Schofield, Carlo Williams, Josh Faulk, Gavin Moore, Kyle Bush. Front Row Left to Right: Mark Waplington, Vicki Frost, Sally Brookes, Dean Moore.

Your round!

Report by Sally Brookes

Played before the Annual Cricket Match, the now traditional Annual Rounders Match saw Dave King's team – in orange – take on Sally Brookes' team – in green. And it has to be said, you had to have your eyes glued to the game to make sure nothing was missed, it was played at such a breakneck, competitive speed.

It was a very close-run thing, with the orange team winning with a score of 20½ and green finishing on 14½.

Dean Gladdin won Man of the Match, but there were lots of good players with excellent performances from Josh and Carlo, who were extremely good at fielding and catching.

Can we also say a big thank you to Simon Cole, who stepped in as an umpire at the 11th hour, he did a grand job!!

All in all it was great fun. I'm looking forward to next year's rematch already!



And the winners are...

Our annual summer event is always a celebration, we have the winners of the cricket and rounders, acknowledge health and safety on-site, announce our holiday prize draw and thank our 25 year servers. It's a great occasion!



Site team captain, Russ Pitman accepts the trophy from Guy.



Dave King accepts the 'golden ball' for his team winning the rounders.



Louis White is named 'man of the match' for the cricket.



Shaun Fay collects the Health & Safety Award on behalf of site manager, Paul Slack who was away.



Dean Gladdin named 'man of the match' for the rounders.



Ian Beech wins third prize in the holiday draw. Vikki Martin won second prize and first prize goes to Paul Riley.

Raising a glass and potting a few...

It was a fantastic turn out for our annual summer get together. Despite threatening skies and flash floods throughout the county, we managed to stay dry. As well as playing pool, some serious motor racing and a few jars, we enjoyed delicious pizza and scrumptious fish and chips. Thanks to all who came and supported the event!



Sporty types and happy hobbyists... *check out what we get up to!*



Green fingers

Simon Cole, one of our maintenance team, was inspired to take up Bonsai by his father, who also practised the ancient art. Simon – a keen enthusiastic for over seven years – now has a collection of over 30 trees, from tiny miniatures to 4' tall. He told Insite the tradition comes from China and India, where the small portable landscapes are highly valued.



Free Sista Vintage

Tomos Pritchard and his partner **Amber Fields-Maher**, have launched a fabulous vintage clothes shop in Middle Lane Mews, Ashby de la Zouch. A real family affair, with children and parents helping, the shop stocks clothes from the 1930's up to early 2000. It's been hard work but great fun, said Tomos, pictured with Amber wearing outfits from the shop.



Bringing the Team on!

Plant operator, **Lee Brady** is kept pretty busy when not on-site, having taken up coaching his son's U9s football team. Working in conjunction with coaches and mentors at the Anderson Electrical Arena in Borrowash, Derbyshire, he has helped launch a youth development programme and is hoping to become more involved in organising tournaments for the team.



Another year another William Davis, 1st & 2nd in the Nottingham Riverside Festival Charity Dragon Boat Race!



A year to the day since the Blazing Paddles and the Davis Dragons secured first and second places in the UK Corporate Dragon Boat Series, they have done it again – and in doing so beat the equally competitive HMS Sherwood Royal Navy team into third place.

However, in a reversal of fortune, it was the Davis Dragons who were crowned Champions this year, pipping the site team to the post by 0.23 of a second in what was an extremely tense and close fought battle for the entire race. Without the fine teamwork on display in both boats such a fast, furious, and photo finish final could not have taken place.

The event was very well attended by family of the crew, colleagues, and friends alike with both teams showing great support for each other

throughout. A special thank you to all the supporters for giving up the day to come along and cheer us on.

Captaining the site-based team was **Dave King** together with oarsmen **Dan Bancroft, Adam Wainwright, Paul Elliott, Alex Seymour, Scott Creighton, Dan Mangham, Adam Gundry, Daniel Martin, Lewis Roberts, and drummer Charlea Ridgeway.**

Captain and Drummer of the mixed team of office, site, yard, site management, and family members/friends was **Sally Brookes** with oarsmen **Murray Ellson, John Brinkworth, Dean Gladdin, Carl Brookes, Jack Jordan, Dean Moore, Barry Dennison, Josh King, Aiden Busby, and Paul Watkins.**

Well done to all involved!



Going for a Song

Our newest sales consultant, **Patrick Davison** has been writing music since the age of six. To date, Patrick, a member of the International Songwriters Guild, has composed over 70 pieces and is currently working on a new country music album with US lyricist David Murray. Patrick says he tries to write every day because ... *'It gladdens my heart!'*



High Flyers

The team here at Insite were very impressed to learn **Richard Halford**, plumbing manager, has had his pilot's licence since 2017. He also has a share in a very snazzy Skyranger microlite and **John Roberts**, cost and bonus manager, decided to join him up in the clouds to check it out. Looking very cool up there, both!



Mark Waplington Sally Brookes Ben McCartney

Running on!

Commercial director, **Mark Waplington** blames colleagues **Sally Brookes** and **Ben McCartney** for rekindling 'Marathon Fever' after going to London to support them last year. Mark completed his first marathon in 2009 and this year ran in aid of Children with Cancer.

This year – both Sally and Ben ran in the Leeds marathon in aid of the Rob Burrow/MND Association.

All three completed their races – a fantastic achievement!



Apprentice of the year Seb Smith pictured with Kneate, his twin but which is which?

Caption Competition

Win a £50 gift voucher!

Email insite@williamdavis.co.uk with your most amusing entry for the photo (left) to win a £50 gift voucher.

insite

WILLIAM DAVIS HOMES MAGAZINE 2023



WILLIAM
DAVIS
HOMES

*Come and see our
latest developments:*

Buttercup Fields

Shepshed, LE12 9QA

Hastings Green

Kirby Muxloe, LE9 2AQ

Honeysuckle Rise

*Burton on the Wolds,
LE12 5TQ*

Houlton

Rugby, CV23 1DX

Lace Fields

Ruddington, NG11 6SA

Lime Gardens

*Sutton Bonington,
LE12 5NQ*

Prince's Place

*Radcliffe on Trent,
NG12 1BA*

Regency Park

*Castle Donington,
DE74 0AJ*

Skylarks

Chesterfield, S41 9RJ

Thorpebury in the Limes

Thurmaston, LE7 3QP

Telephone

01509 231181

www.williamdavis.co.uk



Kitchen of our
Kenilworth showhome
at Lime Gardens,
Sutton Bonington,
Nottinghamshire.