

Autumn/Winter 2024

taylor lewis

Magazine



Affordable Housing

News of lots of new developments

Meet our new additions

Charity roundup

Notes from the Managing Director

Is it really that time already?! As another year wraps up, it's time to reflect on our 2024 goals. We knew it was going to be a tough challenging year, with uncertainty in the political landscape due to the election and the knock-on effect that this would have on our industry. However, we have achieved our growth target for 2023/24, we have grown in size to over 50 members of staff, we are operating out of new geographical areas (now 6 offices, with more coming next year!) and we are working with a greater number of clients across a greater diversity of work streams.



But whilst this all sounds fantastic; it's been tough; it's been challenging; and sometimes it comes at a cost and sacrifice particularly to those working long hours and at weekends to help achieve these goals. As we celebrate our past achievements and look forward to the future, the essence of Taylor Lewis remains our fantastic staff culture. It is this culture of collaboration, respect, and continuous improvement that propels us to achieve our goals. Together, we will continue on our journey to deliver the best service possible for our clients, and I am immensely proud and grateful for the commitment and dedications of every member of the Taylor Lewis family.

Roll on 2025.

Robin Jackson
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Former ambulance station in Nelson

Residents have moved into five new 'energy efficient' bungalows, which have been built on the site of the former ambulance station in Nelson.

The two-bedroom bungalows were created using timber frames made within United Welsh's Celtic Offsite factory on Pontygwindy Industrial Estate, Caerphilly. Working alongside Caerphilly County Borough Council, the homes have been built with "high insulation", achieving a top energy efficiency rating. The whole development was funded through the Welsh Government's social housing grant.



MMC Collaboration in Dorset and Wiltshire

We are currently working with Rollalong, a local offsite constructor, to provide high-quality modular homes.

These modern method of construction (MMC) homes help eliminate the gap between predicted and actual performance, has environmental benefits and provides a higher-quality final product. On site in Rowde to watch the delivery of the modules taking place.

This is one of multiple sites using MMC in Dorset and Wiltshire, and demonstrates what collaboration and partnership in the South West can achieve.



New bungalows in Plympton

Working with Westward and Classic Builders on their latest housing development at St Peters Close, Plympton, providing five accessible and affordable bungalows, two shared ownership and three rental. The homes were provided with Homes England funding and recycled grant funding from Westward. The two two-bed bungalows for shared ownership and three one-bed bungalows for social rent are adaptable and accessible, with the larger one-bed bungalow being fully wheelchair accessible.



Okement Park

Newly completed homes were handed over in the autumn at the Okement Park development.

Working as Employers Agent with Legal & General Affordable Homes and developer Barratt Homes, Okement Park is a development of 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes on the edge of Okehampton. All homes benefit from bird boxes, bat boxes and bee bricks to support the local environment.



Energy Efficient homes in North Devon

Our retrofit project with partners Westward Housing and Low Carbon Exchange continues in North Devon.

Enhancing the energy efficiency of homes through the options of new roofs, windows, doors, insulation, solar panels, renewable heating and improved ventilation systems, helping make homes more sustainable, warmer and cheaper for the individuals that live there.





More affordable homes in Ivybridge

Working again with Plymouth Community Homes and Bloor Homes to help deliver much needed, affordable housing developed through shared values of delivering quality housing for local people.

These homes will be located close to Ivybridge town centre, with great access routes to the A38 and local primary and secondary schools. The rental and shared ownership sales will be available from Spring 2025.

Barne Barton

The redevelopment of Barne Barton is progressing nicely with our clients Clarion Housing Group and Latimer by Clarion Housing Group.

Through major regeneration it will transform the 1960s estate to a modern community with high quality modern homes for everyone.



We are in the top 150 Consultants List (Again)

We are delighted to learn that we have been listed in the Building Magazine Top 150 Consultants list which has recently been published.

2024 marks 32 years in business for Taylor Lewis having grown from a single office when it was founded in November 1992 in Exeter, to now five offices across the South West and Wales and employing 51 staff. A deeply experienced, independent multi-discipline construction consultancy, which has achieved a steady and sustainable growth over the last few years and places the culture and values of the company at the heart of this growth.



Connor Downs

A brilliant progress picture of the first phase of the Connor Downs development and the newly completed homes at Windsor Terrace and Coronation Avenue.

We were delighted to learn that Brent Harvey, for Robertson Developments Ltd, had been awarded the NHBC Pride in the job Quality Award winner for the work delivered at this Coastline Housing Development. The collective team working in a consistently disciplined manner, showing extremely high levels of attention to detail and control in all management areas. Very much deserved, well done.



Beach clean with Brooks Estates

Cornwall's coastline is renowned for its dramatic scenery, towering cliffs, secluded coves, and vast expanses of beautiful sandy beaches.

One of our own Ant Bassett along with other community minded organisations organised by Brook Estates, got stuck into a beach clean at Perranporth in the summer. All those sharing one common goal - to keep the county litter free and tidy.

We were delighted to learn that this wonderful group of volunteers cleared 28.5kg worth of waste and rubbish from the beach, which was correctly disposed of, recycled and reused!



YMCA Development

Progress picture at the YMCA development with Castell Group and Valleys to Coast where 21 homes are being built.

The site has seen significant progress recently including flooring installation, soil being replaced with concrete and beam installations. We look forward to seeing how this site progresses.



Supporting the North Devon Homes Summer Fayre

Our third year supporting the North Devon Fayre. This annual summer fayre gives the unique opportunity to spend the day with their customers and supply chain in an informal fun setting.





Third year hosting our successful It's a Knockout at Winslade Park

At Taylor Lewis we've discovered that infusing the playful spirit of "It's a Knockout" with partners in the build environment, not only strengthens our connections but also injects a massive dose of fun into the work culture.

For the third year running at the beautiful Winslade Park, 32 teams took part tackling inflatable obstacle courses, dressing up in hilarious costumes, and participated in some fun, crazy challenges, all creating unforgettable memories and bonds that last beyond the workplace, and transforming a regular office day into an extraordinary colleague adventure!

The unpredictable September weather behaved, and allowed for a truly memorable day for all who took part. A huge well done to all the teams from across the region who shared in the wacky, entertaining games and we look forward to doing it all again next year. Who says team building has to be dull and conventional?

Robin Jackson, Managing Director and Co-owner of Taylor Lewis stated,

"For the third year running I am overwhelmed by the popularity of this event. It's fantastic to bring our industry partners together and this unique event creates an amazing culture of competition, friendship and collaboration. We will continue to make this an annual event and I'm already looking forward to next year. I would like to thank our sponsors W4G Fire & Security, Trowers & Hamblins LLP, Gwella Contracting Services, Devon Contractors and Westwood Liquid Technologies for their support on the day and a special thanks to the TL team that made the day possible!"



New Additions

As we continue to grow we welcome three new members to the #TLTeam.

Paula Slann - Project Coordinator
Paula joins our Team of Project Coordinators who support the #BuildingSafety Division with the ongoing programme for our expanding client base around the UK.



Kynan Besenyi and Beth Young Retrofit Assessors
Kynan and Beth will strengthen our #Retrofit Division working to monitor and evaluate energy efficiency measures within domestic properties in accordance with PAS 2035.



We are delighted to welcome the youngest addition to the #TLFamily. We are delighted for Jake Lloyd and Georgi who have welcomed handsome Henry into the world.



Everyone is doing brilliantly, especially big sister Olivia who is smitten!

Exeter City Supporters Trust Tournament



Taylor Lewis had a full morning of football at the Exeter City Supporters' Trust 7 aside Tournament back in the summer.

Proud to say our team were undefeated through the group stages putting them in the final with Exeter Regional Talent Centre, ending with a nail biting penalty shoot out, which unfortunately for us, saw RTC lift the trophy!

Despite the defeat we were delighted to hear the day raised £1,200 which will be used to support the Trust's next fundraising project. Thanks to the organisers for putting on the event and for the invite!



At Taylor Lewis we are proud to support local sports teams across all levels, giving back to the communities where we live and work. Recognizing the challenges many clubs face in securing funding and sponsorship, we are committed to making a positive impact by helping provide essential resources.

Alongside our long-standing support of Exeter City Football Club, Plymouth Argyle and Exeter Chiefs, we are thrilled to extend our sponsorship this season to several local youth clubs, equipping them with much-needed gear. Our ongoing sponsorship of Penryn Grasshoppers U15 and Rockbeare Rockets U9 supplying them with kits and training equipment.



Charity Roundup



CEO Sleepout Bristol

On November 11th, seven everyday heroes took part in the CEO Bristol Sleepout. The morning after the night before and the stark realisation to what those sleeping rough face when temperatures plummet! The Bristol weather dropped to a balmy 3 degrees so stepping out of their comfort zone swapping cosy homes and warm beds to create awareness and funds to combat homelessness and provide vital support to those in need.

For most of us homelessness is unimaginable. We take for granted that we will be able to meet our daily needs of safety, food, shelter and companionship without facing incredible obstacles. But every day thousands of people awake without shelter or a regular address.

Best Mates - wegolya, BILLYCHIP CIC and Help Bristol's Homeless are the three charity beneficiaries which every penny donated goes to support their programs and initiatives aimed at providing shelter, support services, and pathways to independence for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

A huge thank you to those big hearted businesses who donated and sponsored the Team, we fully applaud you for the support – you are awesome!



Hospiscare Golf Day

This incredible event now in its 19th year has raised over a staggering £260,000 to date and is supported by over 50 local teams at the Exeter Golf and Country Club raising money for the wonderful Hospiscare.



South West Coast Challenge

In early August some of the wonderful TL Team raised money for our Charity of the Year, Campaign Against Living Miserably. They undertook the South West Coast Challenge walking or running 10Km or 25km

Special mention to Dani Atkins – Barr for racing home as the 3rd fastest female! #smashedit





Did you know about our specialist services at Taylor Lewis?

The key strengths of the Taylor Lewis team are within the new build affordable homes sector, open market residential and cross subsidy as well as upgrades and conversions of existing buildings.

At Taylor Lewis we understand that each sector has its own constraints and challenges and our in-house team expertise are geared to the differing needs of each sector. Our approach is unique and tailored to meet the needs of our client and we ensure that each project is resourced by professionals with capabilities in that sector.

We have a range of in house capabilities and employ people who are experts in their respective sector to offer the full range of services required by our clients including:

- Fire Risk Assessments
- Damp and Mould Inspections
- Cost Management
- Benchmarking
- Feasibility Studies
- Compliance for Grant Funding
- Estimating and Budgeting
- Preparation of Bills of Quantities
- Final Account Settlement
- Cost Planning and Control
- Contract Preparation
- Value Engineering
- Expert Witness
- Monitoring Surveyor for Funder
- Whole Life Costing

Get in touch with one of the Team today
01392 825778



Awards

North Taunton Woolaway Project Scoops Award

The North Taunton Woolaway Project won the award for Residential Project of the Year (36 homes and over) at the Michelmores Awards back in the summer.



North Taunton Woolaway was praised for being an ambitious regeneration project that supports growth within the local economy and offers health, environmental and employment opportunities, while the council-led development provides homes of exceptionally high-quality, setting the standard for other local authorities and the private sector.



Encompass Ecology



National Energy Efficiency Awards

We celebrated all the great businesses making a difference in the South West undertaking energy efficiency and retrofit works at the National Energy Efficiency Awards at Sandy park over the summer.

Great that Taylor Lewis were shortlisted for Consultancy of the year, but even nicer that we were nominated and won an award alongside Exeter College and EWI Pro recognising the collaboration between education and industry through the Green Skills Advisory Panel (GCAP).

Well done to all others who were shortlisted and won awards!



Who said fairytales weren't real?

So August was a busy time for wedding planners across the globe...

A huge congratulations to Dani Akins-Barr and Becky who said "I do" at the most stunning outdoor wedding venue in Fowey, Cornwall and Helen Green and Mike who exchanged vows under an arbor in the middle of the Bahamas ocean.

Wishing them all a lifetime of happiness and love!

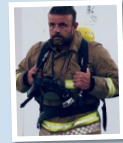


60 Seconds with

Dean Farnell

Senior Technical Advisor

Where were you born? Bristol



Tell us about your career path?

Left school, started college completing my NVQ 3 in building and construction crafts.

Became a retained firefighter at the age of 22, still currently with the fire service.

Joined Wessex ambulance service as a emergency ambulance technician working as a partnership with paramedics at the age of 24 until the age of 35.

Worked as a carpenter for 10 years, then joined persimmon homes as a cavity barrier inspector, and then joined Taylor Lewis as a Fire safety technical advisor.

Did you always want to work in construction? No, but very passionate about fire safety, protection and preventing fire from happening in the first place, which helps to save lives.

Why did you want to join Taylor Lewis? In this section of the construction industry in regard to fire safety Taylor Lewis enables me to contribute towards fire safety related issues and identify fire safety issues before anyone could be potentially at risk from fire.

If you could choose one other profession what would it be?

Fulltime firefighter, fire safety engineer, fire investigator.

What is your favourite building? Edinburgh Vaults, Scotland

What are you passionate about? Helping to reduce fatalities caused by fire, Savings lives, Motorcycles (racing), Mechanics and Paranormal investigations, after my sons mother passed away in 2008 due to diabetes complications I have been passionate about finding evidence of life after death.

What is your favourite ride at a theme park? Anything fast, anything high, anything dangerous and Ghost trains.

What would your entrance song be? Danza kuduro (fast and furious 5)



Employers Agent
Project Management
Chartered Quantity Surveyors
CDM/Principal Designer
Sustainability Advice
Building Surveyors
Passive Fire Inspectors
Land Assembly
Retrofit Coordinators, Designers and Assessors

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