

Spring / Summer  
2025

# taylor lewis *Magazine*



New Birmingham  
office location

Affordable  
Housing

Lots of new developments

Meet our new  
additions

Charity  
round up

# Notes from the Executive Director



Welcome to our latest edition of the Taylor Lewis Magazine, you've got me this time...

As we move through 2025 I wanted to express our gratitude for your continued support of our business.

In terms of business performance we've made solid progress in the 1st quarter of 2025. Our recent performance in all our departments has exceeded expectations and I want to place on record our thanks to our Building Safety, Retrofit, Surveying, Project Support and Business Development teams across the business.

Since the last edition we have made an important decision as part of our key initiatives within the Business Plan to open a Birmingham office. This will support our ambitions to grow Taylor Lewis from both a geographical and client perspective as well as securing new work with existing clients who operate in other areas of the country. This move will be critical to our long-term success and we are excited about the opportunities that are already opening up.

As Robin has previously stated we both firmly believe that a strong culture is at the heart of our success. I'm proud to see the collaboration, innovation, and support we show each other and to our clients and partners each and every day. We are continuing to invest in professional development, wellbeing, and creating a workplace where everyone can thrive. Whilst we've achieved a lot, there's more to do. The next quarter will be focused on ensuring we remain on existing and securing new framework opportunities. We will also finalise our new Carbon Reduction and Social Value Plans. Robin and myself are confident that with the momentum we've built, we'll meet and exceed our goals.

We are really looking forward to our annual 'It's a Knockout' event in September. The popularity of this event has significantly grown over the last three years and we are now up to 35 teams! I'd like to thank the TL team who make this event possible together with all of our sponsors and partners.

Finally, a big thank you to our employees, clients, partners and stakeholders. Our resilience, passion, and professionalism are what makes our relationships and outcomes special and hugely rewarding. Let's continue to push forward together over the coming months and years.

**Ant Bassett**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Mulberry Park, Bath

We are delighted to be working with Curo Enterprise on their award winning brownfield regeneration project.



Mulberry Park is now in its final phase of development of high quality homes situated in the sought-after neighbourhood of Combe Down near Bath and offers high quality sustainable shared ownership and social rented housing.



## Trostrey Street, Newport

Nine new homes at Trostrey Street, Newport have been handed over to Pobl Group. Working in partnership with Adra Homes LLP, the construction of these homes for affordable rent, comprising of seven 3-beds, one 2-bed, and one 4-bed homes. The scheme, formerly a disused laundry has been designed to be sympathetic to the surrounding area with design taking cues from the existing homes.



## Sherford homes

Working in partnership with Aster Group and Taylor Wimpey on 'Phase 2D' in Sherford, Plymouth. Two of the plots recently handed over are adaptable and fully wheelchair accessible.



## New modules in Corsley

Working with partners Rollalong and Wiltshire Council on a new development in Corsely Heath.

Five of the eight homes will be offered for social rent and the other three will be available for shared ownership, increasing the number of affordable homes for people in the area.

The homes are built to 100% NDSS (Nationally Described Space Standard), will be net zero in operation, and will have all-electric boilers with air source heat pumps.



## Spring sunshine handovers at Little Cotton Farm

With the backdrop of blue sky for these handovers at Little Cotton Farm in Dartmouth. These homes are perfectly positioned along the main road to Dartmouth and Totnes. Working in partnership with Aster Group and Baker Estates bringing these good looking properties to the affordable housing market.



## New homes in the Cynon Valley Glamorgan

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government, Newydd Housing Association and WK Plasterers bringing brand new affordable homes into the village of Abercynon.

Fflatiau Gweithwyr Abercynon, is a development of twelve new build apartments for affordable rent, helping to address local housing needs in Rhondda Cynon Taf.



# Celebrating our 10,000th inspection

Taylor Lewis are award winning residential Passive Fire Protection Surveyors delivering surveys to Housing Associations in the South and Central of England since 2018. Our technical approach, seeking compliance with Approved Document B has led to effective relationships with all the major housing developers.



All properties built since 2000 have the requirement for cavity barriers to be installed. However, a lack of awareness of the requirements of the approved document has led to these barriers being incorrectly installed in the majority of cases.

Taylor Lewis offers a one stop service to our clients. Our building safety inspectors are supported by a dedicated team of project coordinators, who will liaise with tenants to gain access. We arrange inspections and feed back our findings. Our experienced inspectors carry out assessments in approximately an hour and liaise with tenants on the steps following the inspection.



*"Taylor Lewis have inspected over 10,000 homes built since 2006 delivered by large and small developers. The vast majority recorded a failure in a passive fire measure designed to protect life."*

Matt Steggles  
Head of Building Safety



We visited Greenacres Extra Care housing property in Midsomer Norton where on-site care is provided by our client Curo. This property is designed for older people who need more support than sheltered housing offers but who would still like to be independent.

We were delighted to witness the brilliant work Greenacres does to provide crucial care and support. We shared stories with the residents, cups of tea and more importantly a delicious sponge cake to commemorate our milestone!

taylor lewis building safety team



# tl Awards Retrofit Academy CIC Awards 2025 Finalists



Taylor Lewis has been recognised as a 2025 finalist in the prestigious Best Retrofit Employer Award at the Retrofit Academy CIC Awards.

This recognition highlights Taylor Lewis' commitment to workforce development, training, and fostering excellence in the retrofit sector. As a company that prioritises education, collaboration, and high-quality service delivery, Taylor Lewis continues to lead by example in the growing energy efficiency and decarbonisation industry.

Through their dedicated Retrofit Department, investment in workforce training, and strong industry partnerships, they play a key role in shaping the future of sustainable retrofit solutions. Their involvement with education initiatives like the Green Construction Advisory Panel (GCAP) at Exeter College further demonstrates their commitment to bridging the skills gap and preparing the next generation of retrofit professionals.



## Finalist at Sustainability Awards

We were delighted to be shortlisted in the Small Business category in The Exeter Sustainability Awards. With a record breaking 45 applications across the categories, a panel of experts representing organisations across Exeter with expertise in sustainability, business, retail and transport deliberated and reviewed all of the submissions.



## Button Factory, Porth

Work continues alongside our partners at the Button Factory development, in Cymmer, Porth. Bluefield Land Ltd and Celtic Offsite will be completing the construction of all 10 homes at the Button Factory development. Once complete in 2026, the affordable, energy-efficient homes will be available for social rent with Trivallis.



Working with Coastline and Blue Flame installing solar panels and topping up roof insulation for 90 homes in the Mullion, St Keverne, Mawgan, Lanner and St Day areas. These works are being funded through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) project. These energy efficiency improvements are to bring all of Coastline homes up to an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating Band C ahead of the Coastline Environmental Strategy target of 2028.



## Reduced bills for customers



# New Additions

As we continue to grow we extend a warm welcome five new members to the #TLTeam.

## Retrofit Assessor and Coordinator - David Sell

David will strengthen our Retrofit Team undertaking both the Assessor and Coordinator role working to monitor and evaluate energy efficiency measures within domestic properties in accordance with PAS2035.



## Project Coordinator - Vlatka Youe

V will support the in-house Retrofit Team members and external retrofit site contractors, and provide customer service administration for our growing retrofit service clients.



## Project Coordinator – Kathryn Matthews

Kathryn joins our team of project coordinators whose day to day role is to call residents to arrange inspections and remedials on behalf of our cavity barrier programme for our clients around the UK.



## Senior Surveyor - Rebecca Jones

As Taylor Lewis continues to grow we welcome Rebecca to strengthen our offering in South Wales. Rebecca will be responsible for monitoring and driving up construction standards on a number of housing schemes and will help us continue to deliver excellence in these areas.



## Assistant Surveyor – Callum Simler

Working from our Truro office Callum will be a great addition working with our existing and new clients.

# New office in Birmingham

We are stepping into Spring with our brand new office located in Birmingham, bringing our office locations to six across Central and the South of England. This move symbolises a significant step forward as we continue to enhance our workspace and support our continued growth.



You will find our experienced multi-discipline team of construction consultants at Ingenuity House.

In April we were proud to announce our latest accreditation under the Cyber Essentials scheme.



This milestone reflects our commitment to strengthening our digital security and opening doors to exciting new contracts, tenders, and client opportunities.

Investing in the tools and systems needed to support our business securely and efficiently, we are ready to tackle common cyber threats head-on.

# Charity Roundup



Taylor Lewis is pleased to announce Executive Director and Co-owner Anthony Bassett's appointment as a Trustee of Cornwall Hospice Care; a leading charity dedicated to providing 24/7 compassionate, specialised end of life care for patients their families and their carers.

This exciting new chapter reflects our practices commitment to supporting local charities who continue to touch the lives of so many people. As a Trustee, Ant will work closely with the Board and Finance Committee to provide strategic guidance and support to Cornwall Hospice Care, ensuring the charity's vision and goals are met effectively. Ant is eager to contribute to the charity's ongoing success and growth.

Chair of the Board, David Renwick, commented, "We are thrilled to welcome Ant to our Board of Trustees. His expertise and dedication will be invaluable as we continue to expand our efforts and reach more people in need of our care. We are confident that Ant will bring fresh perspectives and contribute significantly to our mission."



On a freezing January day Jules and H, came together with 63 vans to collect and recycle over 2200 Christmas trees over 3 days across Exeter, and East Devon for the incredible Hospiscare ! This venture raised a record-breaking £46,000! This huge sum will directly support specialist end-of-life care for patients and families right here in Devon.



Taylor Lewis and Holistic Housing Solutions were delighted to host over 200 guests at our Afterparty yesterday evening following the first day of the Chartered Institute of Housing Bristol conference. Huge thanks to our wonderful sponsors VerdeGO Timber Frames and Ecofill.

We toasted to collaboration, sustainability and the future of housing solutions all whilst dancing the night away!

As well as raising more than £700 for the incredible Julian House Devon and Dorset who provide life changing support to those trying to move away from homelessness, abuse, addiction recovery and mental health issues in the South West.



## Team achievements

### Newly qualified Retrofit trio



We are delighted for Lauren Harris, Beth Young and Kynan Besenyi who have all successfully competed their Retrofit Assessor and DEA accreditations.



Their roles within our dedicated Retrofit Division are crucial in the building retrofitting process. As Assessors it is their responsibility to identify areas of improvement and recommending cost-effective solutions, they will also play a key role in conducting detailed property surveys to ensuring PAS 2035 compliance, and producing Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). These are legally required for homes being sold or rented in the UK. These all set standards on what can be achieved in retrofitting and ultimately provide the foundations for a successful retrofit.

### Chartered Membership



We are delighted for Joanna Bouten, Killian Hall and Grant Dymond on becoming Chartered members of the CIOB. This internationally recognised accreditation sets them apart as true professionals in the surveying field and on behalf of the Taylor Lewis Team we are incredibly proud of their accomplishments. Huge congratulations.



## Christopher Edward Lowe

19th May 1955 - 17th February 2025

It is with great sadness we confirm the passing of Christopher Edward Lowe.

Along with Alun Lewis, Chris was absolutely instrumental in the running of Taylor Lewis until 2009. He was a great leader, mentor, and friend to many of us and will be greatly missed by all that knew him.



Chris started working with Taylor Lewis whilst employed by Pearce Construction with Alun finally convincing him to work for us in 1994 where he joined as an Associate, becoming Partner a few years later.

His passion was fast cars and motorbikes, which he always managed to include in his daily life! Chris was married to the amazing Sandra and has two wonderful daughters.

His memory will forever remain in our hearts, a testament to a life well-lived, filled with laughter, love, and unwavering support for those he cherished. He was a man who embraced life fully, and his spirit will continue to inspire us all.

## 60 seconds with

### Karen Craddock

Head of Operations



#### Where were you born?

I was born in Sheffield but moved down to sunny Devon when I was 2 years old (hence the reason I don't have a Yorkshire accent).

#### Tell us about your career path.

My first job after leaving college was at a timeshare hotel in Exmouth as a receptionist, however 2 years of working at what felt like Fawlty Towers was enough for me and so I moved into office administrative work.

The majority of the companies I worked with after leaving the hotel were generally construction or development based but this was just a coincidence and not a conscious choice. In 2002,



I decided to take a risk and move to the Costa Del Sol in Spain, where I lived for 2 years, working in a Country Club doing Design, Marketing & Client Administration. After returning back to the UK, I joined Sovereign Housing as firstly a Development Secretary and then progressing to a Development Assurance Officer. Since joining Taylor Lewis back in 2015, my role and position within the company has evolved over time from Project Coordinator, to Project Manager, to Senior Project Manager and finally to my current position as Head of Operations.

#### Did you always want to work in construction?

Not really, my career journey just took me down this path. However, I really enjoy working in this sector and find it really interesting how developments go from concept to being built. I also enjoy visiting site whenever I get chance and seeing construction progress.

#### Why did you want to join Taylor Lewis?

Whilst working for Sovereign Housing, I had a lot of contact with Taylor Lewis as they were our main Employers Agent. Gina would call or email me on a frequent basis, chasing up payment of invoices and Steve Foxon would regularly come into our office for meetings or to carry out training. I worked for Sovereign for nearly 10 years, but in 2015, all my team were made redundant which meant I would be working alone, it was during this period that Steve reached out and offered me a position which I jumped at. Nearly 10 years later, I'm still here and it was the best decision I ever made.

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

Well there are actually 2 professions that I would choose. Nurse being the first one and a dog handler in the police force would be the second.

#### What is your favourite building?

St Michaels Mount in Cornwall would have to be my favourite. The architecture is just amazing and the attention to detail outstanding. It still intrigues me how they managed to build it on an island without all the technology and machinery we have today.

#### What are you passionate about?

Well some would say that I am passionate about excel spreadsheets but I would say I am more passionate about animals, especially dogs!

#### What is your favourite ride at a theme park?

I absolutely love a roller coaster and the Smiler at Alton Towers is my favourite.

#### What would your entrance song be?

Pretty much any song from the Greatest Showman!



# In February 2025, it marked four years since the seismic shift in management of the company under Robin Jackson and Ant Bassett.



Robin said "We are thrilled to mark a significant milestone - four years of owning and leading Taylor Lewis!

When Ant and I embarked on this journey, we envisioned a future filled with potential and growth. Reflecting on these past four years, we are incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished together.

Firstly, Taylor Lewis has experienced remarkable growth, both in size and in capability. We have expanded our team with talented professionals who share our vision and dedication to excellence. This growth has enabled us to better serve our clients and take on more ambitious projects.

We have significantly strengthened our surveying offering. Our commitment to excellence in surveying has set new standards and solidified our reputation in the industry.

One of our proud achievements is the establishment of our new Retrofit Department. This department has allowed us to provide advice in relation to energy efficiency and sustainability, addressing the growing demand for environmentally conscious practices in our industry.

Building on our Fire Safety work has been another key area of focus. We have expanded our expertise and services in this critical field, ensuring that our clients receive the highest level of protection and compliance. This dedication to fire safety has been instrumental in fostering trust and confidence among our clients.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, Ant and I remain optimistic about the future. We are confident that Taylor Lewis will continue to grow and thrive. Our commitment to innovation, quality, and client satisfaction will drive us forward, allowing us to seize new opportunities and achieve even greater success.



*"Thank you to our incredible team, clients, and partners for your unwavering support. Here's to many more years of growth and achievement!"*

## Time to celebrate

Huge congratulations to our very own Gina and her husband Mike who tied the knot in Exeter in May. On behalf of everyone at Taylor Lewis we wish you both a lifetime of happiness.



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# 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.



Get in touch with one of the Team today  
**01392 825778**

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