

Movers & Shakers

By David Duffy



Oxford construction company Basil Wyatt & Sons Ltd is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Founded by Basil Wyatt in 1956, the family business has grown from strength to strength over the last 60 years, working on many prestigious construction projects throughout Oxfordshire and its surrounding counties.

Some project highlights include restoring the last untouched Grade II listed Victorian theatre in Teddington; building the first purpose-built homes in Oxfordshire for autistic adults; building an Egyptian-inspired house in the Oxfordshire countryside; refurbishing what was once the Cheltenham residence of Sir Walter Scott and two iconic Oxfam shops in Oxford – one of the first Oxfam shops as well as the first Oxfam specialist bookshop.

Basil Wyatt was originally trained by his father as a bricklayer and then went on to work as a foreman for a large, well-known local firm.

After the war he decided to set up his own business and founded the company on the principles of building strong relationships with clients and delivering

quality construction.

Since Basil retired in 1980, the company has been led by Basil's son, David Wyatt. This year David's eldest daughter, Kate, joined the company as business development manager – taking the company into its third generation.

Kate has experience working for both large and small construction companies including Wates and Gleeds. She has also worked in the US but has chosen to bring her skills and experience back to Oxford to work for the family company.

David said: "It is marvellous that Kate has joined the company in such a momentous year – my father would have been very proud. We have a lot to celebrate this year – 60 years in business, Kate joining the team, newly refurbished offices and recently winning three new projects in a month.

"We hope the company continues to flourish for many more years to come."

As part of their 60th celebrations, Basil Wyatt & Sons sponsored Oxfam's Takeover event which also coincidentally took place on the date of its founding October 15. Basil Wyatt & Sons worked with Oxfam earlier this year on a major refurbishment of their Oxfam shop on the Cowley Road in Oxford.