

Basil Wyatt

1907–1999

Founder of Basil Wyatt & Sons Ltd



Basil bricklaying well into his 80's

Born in 1907, Basil Wyatt was originally trained as a bricklayer by his father. He then went on to work as a foreman for a large well-known local firm and became known for his keen eye for detail.

After the war he decided he wanted to work independently and in 1956 he founded the family-owned company on the principles of building strong relationships with clients and delivering quality construction.

When the company was first formed Basil worked out of the back of a garage on Sunderland Avenue in Oxford. From

these humble beginnings he was able to build up a strong local client base - including Oxford City Council - and an excellent reputation for the quality of his work.

The company continued to grow from strength to strength throughout the 1960s, and in 1972, Basil's son David joined the company. David had previously studied Construction Management and worked as a regional surveyor for Wates Ltd.

In 1974 Basil and David decided it was time to find new premises for the business, which was fast out-growing the 'garage' office. They moved to 29 Harpes Rd in Summertown, Oxford - which is where the company is still located today.

In the years prior to the move, 29 Harpes Rd had been used by a 'rag and bone' man collecting unwanted clothes, household items etc (an early form of recycling!) and later as a joiner's yard before becoming Basil Wyatt & Sons' main office.

The offices have seen many changes over the past 40 plus years and although the address remains the same, the

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premises themselves are near to unrecognisable. They have been refurbished a number of times – most recently in 2015 – to accommodate changes in how business is managed and run today.

In those early years there were no computers, photocopiers or mobile photos and up until 1980 everything had to be carefully hand-written in a log book (David has kept the log book as a piece of family nostalgia - see below).

David has continued to honour his father's founding principles and has worked on many prestigious construction projects during the last three decades 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; refurbishing two iconic Oxfam shops in Oxford - one of the first Oxfam shops - as well as the first Oxfam specialist bookshop.

In 2016 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 chose to bring her skills and experience back to Oxford to work for the family company.

Completed by Basil Wyatt & Sons and
Wyatt & Sons Ltd (inc. 1956) 1965-1978

Painting & Decorating, General Repairs, & Extensions

1. Villa for Messanger Bell Lane Cossington Oxon	Paint	2,100
2. House Extension (4 floors) for Schaller 60 Park Lane	Paint	2,200
3. First Council House Bell Lane Cossington Oxon	Paint	3,200
4. Council Buildings Row Harcourt Oxon	Paint	4,200
5. First Council House Parsley Road Long Marston Oxon	Paint	5,200
6. First Police House Tisbury Hill Juno's Hill Oxon	Paint	7,200
7. Bangalow for Fox Buck Lane Sanderson Oxon	Paint	2,500
8. Villa Dr Richards 27 High Street Old Marston Oxon	Paint	1,200
9. House B Wyatt Sanderson Oxon	Paint	5,200
10. First Police House Manning Close Blackbird Oxon	Paint	7,900
11. First Bangalow 2 New House Grove Road Oxon	Paint	17,500
12. Extension to Altona School & Industrial School Manning Oxon	Paint	3,500
13. First Council House Harcourt Lane Oxon	Paint	24,200
14. Extension addition to 14 House Churchill Oxon	Paint	5,800
15. Bangalow 51 Seabra Street Bicester	Paint	4,100
16. Bangalow Station Harcourt	Paint	5,200
17. Police House Larkhill Oxon	Paint	11,200
18. Patched House for Gunter 21 Oxford Road Old Marston	Paint	3,100
19. " " for Tomlinson 35 Oxford Rd " "	Paint	4,100
20. " " for Sharp 37 " " " "	Paint	4,200
21. First Police House 14 Turn Colchester	Paint	5,200
22. Bangalow for David Hitchcock Road Botley	Paint	3,000
23. Bangalow Kempson Overcoat Littlemore	Paint	2,300
24. First Police House Tisbury Hill Juno's Hill Oxon	Paint	5,200
25. Block of 12 flats Brimrose Road Wheatley Oxon	Paint	22,500
26. Bangalow H Liddell 153 Oxford Rd Hillingdon	Paint	2,200
27. Marston Village Hall Oxford Rd Old Marston	Paint	7,500
28. Police House Northcot Lane Oxon	Paint	15,100
29. Extension No. 2 Cossington Northcot Lane Oxon	Paint	1,900

Basil's Original Log Book

After eight years of working alongside each other, Basil retired in 1980 at the age of 73 and David took over as Managing Director of the company.

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Had Basil been alive today, he would have been very proud of the direction the company is heading and, in spite of three big recessions, the company is still a strong and stable business that continues to flourish 60 years on.

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